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FOREIGN POLICY AIMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, CARIBBEAN REVEALED

Sociopolitical Forces Unity

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Aug 79 pp 34-39

[Article by Ernesto Tapia and Oscar Hidalgo: "The Time for Unity in Central America"]

[Text] The events which have occurred in Nicaragua are currently bringing to the forefront of world attention the prolonged, difficult and cruel situation in which the majority of the almost 20 million people in Central America live.

Although economic problems resulting from the role Central America plays in the Western market are the source of common roots for all the countries in the area, Costa Rica, with its parliamentary electoral system, differs notably from the militaristic regimes in this region prevailing in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

In addition to these five nations which because of their historic links regard themselves as parts of Central America, Panama and Belize also are part of the isthmus, both having governments which maintain close political links with the Costa Rican authorities.

The emerging political role of vanguard organizations in the Central American countries is accompanied by a phenomenon beginning to become a general trend throughout the region: the unity of political, economic and social organizations and forces in general. Only through their alliance, as an indispensable requirement, can these forces approach, with some possibility of success, the confrontation with antidemocratic repression, the transnational enterprises, militarism and the other factors causing the social lag.

In Guatemala, for example, the Democratic Front Against Repression has been established, some of the highest ranking Catholic prelates in El Salvador have added their protests to those of the people against the

politically motivated assassinations, arrests and disappearances, and in Nicaragua, the National Patriotic Front is forming.

The various democratic political parties in Honduras foresee serious hindrances to the process of return to constitutional government and are considering the possibility of forming a coalition, while in Costa Rica, uninimity is seen in the rejection of the frontier provocations by Nicaraguan national guard.

The tense political situation the isthmus is experiencing has become more acute in recent years as the growing role of the democratic forces has clashed with a social order the safeguarding of which is the assigned task of military men trained in the academies of the United States and armed by the war industry there and in Western Europe and Israel.

Geography and Wealth

The Central American isthmus is a region which is of great interest to the world from various points of view. First of all, Panama is the transit point for the important maritime transport route by means of which the goods produced on the east coast and on the western coast of the United States, as well in Japan, are marketed throughout the world. These three important industrial centers also receive such raw materials as hydrocarbons, farm food products, ores and others from Asia and the Latin American Pacific coasts by means of fleets of ships which travel through this interoceanic canal.

Moreover, Central America is beginning to take shape as a potential oil zone since one of the richest fuel reserves in the world has been confirmed in recent years on the northeast coast of Mexico--Chiapas, Tabasco and Campeche.

In this connection it suffices to note the rather promising indices pointing to the possibility of commercial exploitation of the subsoil in Guatemala and Belize, the recent drillings at considerable depths begun on the Caribbean shelf off Honduras and Nicaragua, and the studies being pursued by the Ministry of Economy in Costa Rica.

Open pit deposits of nickel, the exploitation of which has already been begun, in Guatemala, gold and silver mines in Honduras and Nicaragua, sources of bauxite and other still unexploited mineral ores in Costa Rica--these form the rich picture of Central American subsoil resources, supplementing the traditional farm production of the fertile lands which provide such foodstuffs as sugar, grains, fruits, green and other vegetables, beef and such other products as coffee, cotton and others.

With the exception of some categories, economic activity is in general monopolized--in production or the decisive marketing stage--by such

trusts a: United Brands, General Foods and Starkist, where food production is concerned, and El Mochito, Rosario Mining, Rio Tinot Zinc Corp., and Exmibal in mineral extraction. Subsidiaries of the "seven sisters" engage in oil processing, Sears of the Caribbean controls a good part of the regional trade, and electric domestic appliances are assembled from parts bought from Japan.

On the other hand, vast debt volumes are pressure factors in the hands of giant financiers such as the Bank of America, which recently offered to cancel a part of Costa Rica's foreign debt, or Chase Manhattan Bank, which makes its presence felt in Honduras through the Banco de Atlantida.

The list could be continued at length, but it suffices to note that, very logically, the most advanced industrial sectors are those from which International Business Machines (IBM), Xerox, International Telegraph and Telephone (ITT) and other similar firms profit.

Other fields of business activities are left in the hands of the producers in the various countries which share the profit from real estate, the import trade, industry and finance with high military officials.

But not even these categories are exclusively owned by Central Americans, because the expansion of markets due to the development in the last decade of Central American economic integration caused the massive upsurge of international capital, a phenomenon which led the majority of those seeking to remain independent to ruin.

Guatemala

The popular and democratic forces in Guatemala succeeded a few weeks ago, for the first time since 1954--when an invasion financed by United Fruit and organized by the US spy system defeated the constitutional president, Jacobo Arbenz--in establishing a united organization--the Democratic Front Against Repression.

One hundred forty social organizations, including the Democratic Socialist Party and the United Revolutionary Front, gave birth to this group as a response to the intensification of the selective and massive repression by the government headed by Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia.

The antipopular policy pursued by the Guatemalan armed forces is oriented in two main directions: opposition to any democratic political alternative in power and annihilation of the mass organizations making up the National Trade Union Unity Committee.

With the assistance of Israeli technicians, the government of General Lucas has established a communications and data center using modern computers and microfilm equipment for the purpose of controlling the public

and private life of the almost six million citizens of Guatemala. This modern center was obtained on contract from the Center Data Corporation in Tel Aviv.

According to the charges of the Democratic Front Against Repression, the assassinations of political leaders Alberto Fuentes Mohr and Manuel Colom Argueta occurred shortly after a police body assessed their files at a center similar to that the Center Data technicians installed.

The close link between the government leaders in Guatemala and Israel were strengthened this year by the trips paid to Tel Aviv between March and April by the ministers of interior and national defense, Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz and Gen Otto Spiegler Noriega, respectively.

Spokesmen for the democratic opposition have also denounced the crimes committed by the paramilitary groups. These assassinations also are perpetrated by members of the armed forces or police bodies who, in an attempt to confuse the people, sometimes blame them on terrorist bands, such as the Death Squadron, the Anti-Communist Secret Army, and more recently, the King's Band.

The development of the popular movement and the emergence of new political groups joining in the struggle which has been waged for the past few years by the Guatemalan Labor Party (communist), the Rebel Armed Forces and the Guerrilla Army of the Poor have come about at an historical moment when an oil industry is beginning to emerge such as to have an influence on the economic structure of the country and thanks to which the high armed forces commands have already begun to enjoy rich profits.

In the transverse strip across the north where the US based international oil companies have already established themselves, new roads have been built such that lands owned by native communities and poor peasants have acquired new value, in view of the possibility of their taking their products to the domestic market centers or exporting them directly through Belize or the Caribbean ports of Santo Tomas de Castilla and Puerto Barrios.

Serious social conflicts are beginning to develop in view of the settlers' resistance to the violence with which the estate owners and the military are trying to rob them of rich lands. In the middle of last year, the Panzos massacre, in which there were more than a hundred victims of military repression, showed the nature of the critical stage through which the native population and the peasants will have to pass.

Belize

An enclave on the Yucatan Peninsula with Guatemala as its neighbor to the south and Mexico to the north, Belize is the last continental English colony in our hemisphere.

This eternally forgotten Central American nation is an agricultural country in which the Maya, Spanish and African cultures have merged with European, Asiatic and Arab immigration. It was never the subject of major international dispute until oil, the exploitation of which has not yet been begun, was discovered in recent years.

The Guatemalan military forces have since then intensified their expansionist demands, expressing their desire to incorporate the colony in their territory.

The discovery of oil and the decline of Prime Minister George Price's People's United Party have given rise to strong opposition, headed by the United Democratic Party, a movement whose leaders have obtained heavy commitments from American investors in California.

This group is seeking to postpone national independence for at least 10 years, to attract US investment through broad concessions, and to win the support of the United States for some form of mediatized access to self-determination.

Honduras

The process of return to a parliamentary system is proceeding slowly in Honduras, both because of the hindrances created by military sectors opposed to the effort, and because only half of the voters have applied for registration.

At the end of last April, when only 4 months remained before the closing of the voters' registers, about a half-million out of a total of a million persons entitled to exercise the right to vote had registered.

The military junta headed by Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, if in fact it has not tried to speed up the process of institutionalization which is to culminate in April of 1980, has not shown any interest in preventing it either.

The new military leaders who came to power after the bloodless coup against Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro have, however, practically put an end to the reformists process which had been begun by one sector of the army in the early 1970's.

Opposition sectors in Honduras have denounced the slowdown in the agrarian reform process and insist that the refusal of citizens to register as voters is due to a widespread conviction that if the elections are held in 1980, they will be rigged.

On the other hand, the economy of the country was dealt a harsh blow with the rise in international oil prices, and the government authorized an

increase in consumer prices by the transnational American Texaco company, which has a monopoly on the refining and distribution of crude oil and the derivative products.

The situation in Nicaragua, with the tottering Somoza dictatorship, has forceful repercussions in Honduras, since the student movement, the industrial and peasant trade unions and the intellectuals are pursuing a permanent campaign of solidarity with tens of thousands of Nicaraguan refugees who have left the country in order to save their lives.

But while the people are manifesting their solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguans, the military in the government are pursuing adamant persecution and repression of the exiles.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) reported a few weeks ago that the public security forces of Honduras are arresting young people they believe to belong to the organization and turning them over to the Nicaraguan National Guard.

El Salvador

A broad debate in which various sectors in El Salvador are participating is developing about the channeling of national political life along channels different from that imposed by the high ranking officers in the armed forces as of the beginning of the last decade, with the administration of Col Julio Adalberto Rivera.

A majority of the members of the National Association of Private Firms came out with an appeal to the government last March for the fulfillment of its duties with regard to public order, not through the indiscriminate use of violence, but with respect for "the rule of law and respect for public institutions."

The public document, viewed nationally as a challenge to the state policy with regard to socioeconomic problems, is particularly indicative since it comes from the same body which not so long ago adamantly opposed the agrarian development programs and, in general, all of the projects directed toward achieving the redistribution, to some degree, of national income.

The presumed official acceptance of appeals of this type took material form shortly thereafter in the revocation of the so-called Public Order and Guarantee Law, polemic legislation by means of which the police bodies were given almost unlimited powers.

This revocation was accompanied by political statements about the desire of the government to comply with petitions of this sort, but deeds even more cruel than many of those which had occurred in the past followed one upon the other in the subsequent months.

The archbishop of San Salvidor, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, said in statements to the Costa Rican weekly UNIVERSIDAD that "The arbitrary seizures, disappearances, and torture continue, for which reason we believe that advantage has not been taken of the revocation, which could have offered an opportunity for the government to inspire confidence and the beginning of attitudes of dialogue and hope, and instead, the same situation continues."

In view of the persistent repression by the regime, the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), an organization including trade unions, student and peasant groups, occupied the embassies of Costa Rica and France and the Cathedral of San Salvador on 4 May, and at a later date, the diplomatic mission of Venezuela and six other parishes elsewhere in the nation, to demand the release of five leaders of that group being held by the police.

In the next 3 weeks alone 88 persons died, hundreds were wounded or arrested, and the capital of the country was virtually taken over by military-police forces.

On the 23rd of the same month, the legislative assembly of El Salvador, manipulated by the government National Conciliation Party decreed a state of emergency prohibiting popular gatherings, suppressing the right of assembly and allowing arbitrary searches and arrests.

In view of the political and social isolation of the regime, Gen Carlos Humberto Romero invited certain political, economic and social forces to participate in a national dialogue in a search for a solution to the crisis.

The opposition political parties, the university sector and the trade union organizations refused to engage in dialogue until a democratic opening might be effected and an end put to repression, while they charged that the appeal for negotiation was made under pressure from the United States in order to draw a veil over the acute crisis being experienced by the country and to attempt to divert the focus of world public opinion.

The national dialogue ended shortly after it began, since it was obviously a monologue in which the only participants were the government party, some protestant sectors, the owners' association and the Salvadoran Communal Union, an organization sponsored by the U. S. Embassy.

Costa Rica

President Rodrigo Carazo Odio implemented a series of measures designed to ensure respect for and the exercise of Costa Rican sovereignty within the 200 mile limit.

The seizure of vessels and imposition of high fines led to an economic conflict with the United States, since Washington decreed an embargo against tuna coming from Costa Rica.

Giving a new slant to policy of this republic, Carazo announced that his government would attend the Sixth Summit Movement of the nonalined countries to be held in Havana, Cuba, in September, as an observer.

Domestically, the trade union movement has clashed constantly this year with Minister of Labor Estela Quesada, because of her ultraconservative positions.

The employees of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, the Banana Workers Trade Union, whose members are employed by the transnational US United Brands company in the Southern Pacific zone, and the cane cutters of the Tempisque Sugar Mill pursued extensive strike movements which culminated in the triumph of their positions.

The drop in the international prices of coffee, sugar and other products, along with rising oil prices caused a still further decline in the terms of trade and reduced the foreign currency reserves in the central bank by more than 40 percent in a year.

The serious nature of the economic crisis led Carazo to appeal to the opposition parties, the trade union organizations and the owners' associations to engage in national dialogue to seek a solution to the situation and to define positions with regard to anticipated problems.

However, the appeal was ignored by the National Liberation Party (PLN), the main opposition party, and the United People leftist coalition, nor was there a favorable response from the trade union movement.

While the PLN said that the dialogue would have no practical value, it charged the government with trying to share responsibility for the consequences after having led the country into an economic crisis.

The United People coalition did not participate, protesting against the anti-trade union policy pursued by the minister of labor and the lack of any guarantee of optimal channels for setting forth and possible future implementation of some of its ideas.

Nicaragua

A violent clash between the national guard of Anastasio Somoza's regime and the people in arms, represented by the Sandinist National Liberation Front is the most outstanding feature of the current crisis in Nicaragua.

Factors contributing to it include an economic situation characterized by the lack of funds and foreign exchange preventing recovery from economic stagnation and inflation proceeding in a geometric progression since the devaluation of the national currency, the cordoba, last April.

Nicaragua is also playing an institutional charade in that the Somoza regime, using the force of arms and the support of strong US power sectors, is resisting the desire of an entire people to put an end to a family dynasty which has already endured more than 40 years.

The general situation in the country could not be gloomier. In the first 4 months of 1979, about 2,000 persons, the majority of them young people, died as victims of government repression.

A particular repressive upsurge occured in the month of April when the death rate exceeded 20 per day, and in such towns as Esteli, in the north, hundreds of persons lost their lives at the hands of the national guard after the seizure of the city by Sandinist columns for a week.

The Sandinists succeeded in establishing a number of guerrilla fronts in various geographic regions of the country, the most outstanding because of its constant fighting and victorious actions, being the Carlos Fonseca Amador north front, which succeeded in taking and destroying numerous barracks in various settlements, including Condega, El Sauce, Trinidad, El Jicaro, Achuapa, La Concordia, San Juan Limay and others.

The military suffered 50 casualties and the destruction of a tank, weapons and three Somoza airplanes in the battles against the guerrilla force.

In the course of the strategy pursued by the Sandinists to destroy stability, the East Front, operating in the departments of Zelaya and Rio San Juan, was established. There a number of actions were pursued against Somoza army troops, which mobilized more than a thousand men and sent them to this region.

There has also been an increase in guerrilla operations in Managua and the settlements surrounding the capital, and some of the more important cities in the interior of the country were seized by the Sandinists, with great losses for the national guard.

On the political level, a Provisional National Reconstruction Government (GPRN) has been established, made up of individuals from the various groups which opposed the regime of Anastasio Somoza throughout these years.

The provisional government published a program in which it set forth a series of measures designed to deal with the consequences of 40 years of tyranny, to rebuild the country and to promote economic and social progress.

The GPRN has already received official recognition from a number of governments in Latin America and on other continents, while at the same time the tyranny is finding itself ever more isolated on the international level, with the breaking off of relations by countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Brazil and others.

Within the Organization of American States, the motion sponsored by the United States to create a military force for intervention, designed in reality to frustrate the popular victory and to perpetuate a Somozan regime in Nicaragua without Somoza, was defeated thanks to the firm anti-intervention attitude of a large number of governments on the continent. Rather than find itself isolated, the United States chose to support the resolution sponsored by the Andean Pact countries, demanding the replacement of Somoza as the only way to resolve the problem.

However, Washington continued in practice to support the dynasty by supplying weapons through a number of third countries, such as Israel. At the same time, as this issue goes to press, it has been pursuing intensive diplomatic activities with a view to finding a regime favorable to its interests to replace that of Somoza.

Dictatorships on the Decline

The increasing enrollment of new and broader sectors in the struggle against the anachronistic socioeconomic structures and repression by the military regime in Central America is bringing closer the day when peoples of the region can freely decide on their destiny.

The systems established by military governments in the service of foreign groups have revealed their inability to maintain privileges inconsistent with the national interests, and have strengthened the determination of democratic sectors in Central America to struggle.

The aid of the transnational enterprises and the conservative power groups in the United States, be it in weapons, in credit granted through international financing bodies, or mediatizing maneuvers and "national dialogues" designed to find arrangements making it possible to maintain the current state of affairs, have also proved useless.

The breaking off of diplomatic relations with the Nicaraguan military regime by Mexico, the condemnation of the Somoza dictatorship by Panama, Costa Rica and other countries, and various demonstrations of international solidarity with the struggle of the Central American peoples are acquiring greater significance currently, as these peoples intensify their combat and sacrifice to win their independence.

The Church at a Crossroads

The recent meeting of the Episcopal secretariat of the Catholic church in Central America and Panama, held in the capital of Costa Rica, included among the subjects for discussion matters ranging from very specific aspects of this faith to the subjects of economic, political and social conflict being discussed within the church and seemingly having ever greater weight in its decisions.

In concluding the week of discussions, a number of bishops held a press conference to explain the scope of the conclusions of the conclave, as well as the prevailing viewpoints.

Bishop Miguel Obando y Bravo of Managua and Bishop Roman Arrieta Villalobos of Tilaran explained that the main subjects in the discussion were the mechanisms for explaining the decisions of the Puebla Episcopal Conference (Mexico), family and youth problems, and the priestly and religious callings in general.

At the gathering, there was broad rejection of the intensive propaganda being pursued in the countries of the isthmus in recent years by religious groups with their origins, according to Bishop Arrieta, in the southern part of the United States.

On the other hand, Guatemalan Bishop Prospero Penados del Barrio of the Department of San Marcos described the subject analyzed at the gathering in statements to PRISMA, describing the crossroads at which the Catholic church in this region finds itself.

Penados stressed on the one hand that strictly religious matters were the focus of the debates, since this is the natural concern, he said, of the church, but on the other hand he explained that even if this is not desired, the socioeconomic situation in the majority of the countries on the isthmus makes it inevitable that social problems have their effect within the church.

Taking great care to avoid specific references to his country, this bishop stated:

"Militarism and capitalism are links in a single chain in Central America. The advancement of health and education should account for the largest percentages of the expenditure budgets of the governments, but this is not the case, since the armed forces often account for more than half of such expenditures, unfortunately.

"When a military officer reaches a high rank he is already well taught how to kill, unfortunately, and the heaviest penalties are applied to

anyone who they think is attacking their military principles. They avoid the problem of political prisoners by machine-gunning potential political trouble makers," he added.

Another of the bishops who participated in the gathering was the Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who when interviewed by the Costa Rican weekly UNIVERSIDAD made lengthy statements, of which the following paragraphs are excerpts.

"The problem in El Salvador is a situation of social injustice, and this demands that the church speak out for greater respect for the poor, equal opportunity in order to better the almost subhuman situation in which the majority lives.

"A tremendous difference can be seen between the vast majorities which do not even have enough to eat and the minority which has the goods which God has provided for all. This difference is visible.

"The conflict is not between the church and the government but between the government and the people, and the church stands with the people, and therefore indirectly, it is in conflict with the government.

Stateless Exiles Growing Problem

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Oct 79 pp 6-7

[Article by Aurora Morera: "A Hard Life--Fleeing Death and Poverty"]

[Text] The right of more than five million Latin Americans to live in their native land is constantly being violated arbitrarily by governments of a dictatorial cut in this region. There are five million persons living and multiplying in compulsory exile, often very far from their countries of origin.

The unprecedented and alarming number of Latin American exiles is without any doubt an offense against the dignity of the peoples of this continent and the most elementary rights of man.

This approximate figure is far from reflecting the real situation, the more dramatic aspects of which are illustrated by the disproportion between the number of inhabitants in certain countries and the number of those who have had to leave them for one reason or another.

More than one-half of the inhabitants of Paraguay, for example, have found themselves forced to reside in other nations. One out of five Uruguayans and one out of every 10 Chileans have been forced to leave their homeland.

About two million Puerto Ricans live in exile in the United States, either persecuted in their own country or unemployed there and having left in the illusory search for work and better living conditions.

This massive exodus, which affects politicians, artists, priests, scientists, specialists and also children alike, works without a doubt to the detriment of all technical development of the underdeveloped nations in the area, where foreign capital has for years distorted the economy.

Persecuted and Banished

Among the causes of the high number of persons exiled in Latin America in recent years is the repressive wave which spread across the continent after the military coup in Brazil in 1964, reaching its climax after the overthrow of the constitutional president of Chile, Salvador Allende, in 1973.

But earlier, in countries with prolonged dictatorships such as Paraguay, Nicaragua, Santo Domingo and Haiti, persecution, unchecked repression and the expulsion of leaders, progressives or simply the suspect were and are methods used as a means of political neutralization.

Outstanding personalities in the political, religious and intellectual sectors in Latin America, forced to abandon their native lands, are scattered throughout Europe, America and other regions of the world.

These include Luis Corvalan, secretary general of the Communist Party of Chile, the former Chilean Popular Unity (UP) foreign minister, Clodomiro Almeyda, and the secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party, Luis Carlos Prestes.

The long list of political leaders in exile also includes, to name just a few, the secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay, Rodney Arismendi, Nicaraguan poet and priest Ernesto Cardenal, and the Uruguayan writer Mario Benedetti.

The Right to a Fatherland

The history of exile in Latin America, although in a much less dramatic way, dates back to the years of the Spanish domination in what was then called the New World, when the colonial governors ordered the exile, by royal mandate, of any outstanding political opponent.

This measure, which fell into disuse in the early years of the republic, contributed to strengthening the concept of the fatherland and the love of America, with a strong nationalist feeling.

Outstanding figures such as the apostle of Cuban independence, Jose Marti, the Chilean hero Bernardo O'Higgins, and the poet Pablo Neruda, wrote to their colonized lands while in exile.

In the 1950's, the intensification of the Cuban struggle to win total independence led to a forced political emigration which, far from neutralizing the revolutionary zeal, served to organize and consolidate, with the valuable contribution of the emigrants, the last and final stage of the rebellion.

Today the concept of exile exceeds all limits and constitutes an open violation of the universal declaration of human rights, which establishes the right to live in his own country and contribute to its social, economic and cultural development as one of the inalienable rights of man.

The military regimes in America have trampled upon that right by virtue of arbitrary legislation such as the well known "national security law" sponsored by the War College in Brazil after the military coup of 1964 and in effect in the majority of the countries in the American Southern Cone.

This doctrine, the official ideology of more than one of the military dictatorships on the continent, makes it possible to implement despotic and repressive emergency measures to safeguard a state which does not represent the interests of the people.

The concept of legality has been ignored in the constitutional text, which has been based on the unlimited and unrestricted power of the armed forces, which are authorized to take any action, including the violation of international agreements and conventions on civil and citizens' rights.

Beyond the Frontiers

In recent years, a number of opposition leaders have been arrested or assassinated far from their native land.

On 21 September 1976, the former Popular Unity government foreign minister of Chile, Orlando Letelier, was assassinated in Washington in a crime in which high officials in the secret service of the military junta headed by Gen Augusto Pinochet seemed to be involved.

The violent death of Letelier is no isolated incident. It is a part of a plan drafted for the systematic elimination of Latin American political leaders in exile, similar to the "Phoenix plan" developed in the United States "to silence" opponents of the war in Vietnam.

Other victims of this international plot have been the former commander of the Chilean armed forces, Carlos Prats, former Bolivian president Juan Jose Torres and former Uruguayan parliamentarians Hector Gutierrez and Selmar Michelini.

The persecution of political figures beyond the frontiers also involves an agreement among the security departments in the regimes of the Southern Cone to capture and exchange refugees from one country to another.

A recent example was the kidnapping of Uruguayan refugees Lillian Celiberti and Universindo Rodriguez in Porto Alegre, Brazil, who later turned up as "prisoners" in Montevideo.

Statements from witnesses indicate that the kidnapping was carried out by members of the Uruguayan secret police, working with Brazilian police agents.

The Myth of Golden Exile

The economic, social and political situation which Latin American exiles must face in the countries where they reside, in the majority of cases, denies the false theory of "golden exile."

The lack of social stability, economic difficulties resulting from the high unemployment rate for exiles and the always lurking danger to their lives or personal safety makes life in exile hard and difficult.

In some countries the exiles are subject to an intensive campaign of intimidation and harassment and are persecuted, arrested and interrogated for the most minor reasons.

The refugees, in addition to suffering from isolation from their own environment, must adapt to new and differing cultural customs, languages and life styles, something in which they do not always succeed or are not allowed to do, producing in them the conflict of the misfit.

The Cuban leader Raol Roa, a veteran of the student struggles in his native land, has defined exile as "the convulsive transplant trauma," and by way of explaining this he said that this is a suffering of the soul "characterized by feelings of emptiness, nostalgia, impotence and rebellion."

Five million citizens of Latin America living in involuntary exile are reliving this experience every day, and perhaps enriching it with their quota of daily suffering.

Popular Forces Gaining Ground

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Oct 79 pp 8-9

[Article by Erasmo Terrero: "Winds of Progress in the Eastern Caribbean"]

[Text] In recent months political changes favorable to the popular sectors have occurred in the Eastern Caribbean and other small islands of the Antillean archipelago.

The popular movements on Granada, Santa Lucia, Dominica and the Dutch Antilles have won significant victories against the conservative governments.

These governments, some of them established by the colonial authorities, proved incapable not only of resolving but also of even slowing the accelerating decline in the standard of living of the island peoples.

The deterioration in the economic and social situations in these Caribbean islands has been aggravated in recent years as a result of inflation and other serious economic problems plaguing the capitalist powers, which shift the main weight of their crisis to the countries in the process of development.

After the overthrow of the corrupt regime of Eric Gairy in Granada last 13 March, the Popular Revolutionary Government (GRP) of the island, headed by Maurice Bishop, consolidated domestically, disbanded the repressive forces of the dictator, and made progress in the reorganization of the economic, political and social life of the country.

Also, it reasserted its status abroad, where it came to play a worthy role in international bodies and has been recognized by 85 nations.

Granada, with a little more than a hundred thousand inhabitants and 344 square kilometers of area, had to deal with a campaign to destroy stability waged by the West Indies Associated States (WISA), encouraged by the dominant Western powers in the area.

The small nations making up the WISA--Antigua, Montserrat, St. Vicente, St. Kitts-Nevis--the states associated with Great Britain, which is responsible for their foreign relations and defense--and in addition, Dominica and St. Lucia, which have recently won their independence, initially refused to recognize the new government of Granada which was, however, recognized from the early days by Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, Trinidad-Tobago, the United States and Great Britain.

Also they tried to prevent the regional LIAT airline from making stops in Granada, refused to pay 3 million ECA dollars (regional currency) previously promised the deposed Gairy government to replace the worn bills

in circulation, and withdrew the regional supreme court from the capital of Granada, while they pursued a violent press campaign against the Bishop government.

The firmness of the authorities in Granada, supported by a strong solidarity movement including the progressive trade union, political and religious organizations in the region, frustrated the attempts to destroy stability. On the other hand, the GRP in Granada undertook the achievement of a broad program for the development of agriculture and expansion of the limited local industry, as well as other measures designed to reduce unemployment and raise the living standard for the population, tasks in which it obtained the aid of specialists from Ghana, Jamaica and other countries in the area.

A Change in Dominica

Meanwhile, the struggle of the trade union organizations in Dominica against the regime of Patrick John developed. Like the regime of the ousted Gairy in Granada, it was characterized by repression of the popular organizations, suppression of the freedoms of the trade unions and the press, and administrative corruption, in the midst of growing unemployment and a decline in the standard of living of the people.

Again like Gairy, John pursued a foreign policy characterized by the surrender of the country's economy to foreign interests, mainly those of the US, and he maintains close links with the racist regime in South Africa, a policy harshly criticized by the progressive forces in the area.

The antipopular policy of the government gave rise last June to massive demonstrations of rejection, strikes and street activities. They were violently repressed with the result that two workers were killed and a number wounded.

A general strike lasting several weeks and other campaigns by the people of Dominica led to the resignation of a number of ministers and, finally, the fall last 23 June of the John government, which was replaced by a new administration headed by his former minister of agriculture, Oliver Seraphine, who had resigned because he disagreed with the repressive and corrupt policy of the government.

In recent statements to the press, the new prime minister has said that his government plans to expand its diplomatic links and consolidate ties with the Caribbean community (CARICOM).

On the neighboring island of St. Lucia there have also been changes. In the early days of July a resounding electoral victory was won by the Labor Party over the conservative United Workers' Party headed by John Compton, which has been in power for the past 15 years.

According to analysts of Caribbean affairs, the defeat of the Compton government, which only retained five of the 17 seats in the congress on this island with 120,000 inhabitants, was due to the prevailing increasing unemployment, the repressive policy against the trade union movement, and administrative corruption.

The new laborite government is headed by Allan Louisy, who took over the post of prime minister and the finance ministry, while George Odlum, the leader of the farm workers trade union, heads the ministries of foreign affairs, tourism, commerce and industry.

In a televised address last 10 July, Louisy said that under the Compton government, the people of St. Lucia were treated as "second class citizens in their own homeland," and he promised to raise the standard of living of the workers.

Moreover, he announced a program of agrarian reform, plans to establish cooperatives, diversify farm production, and develop tourism with state participation and industrial promotion.

Common Problems

In a minisummit meeting held in the middle of last July in St. George, the capital of Granada, with the chiefs of state of this country, St. Lucia and Dominica participating, positive steps were taken toward the solution of the common problems of the peoples of the region. The statesmen felt that "the time has come to forge a new path forward in the Caribbean, based on democratization and popular participation."

At the conclusion of the talks, Seraphine stated: "We have sought to find common positions with regard to many basic and fundamental problems having to do with the line to be pursued in foreign affairs, and other sectors in which we can join together in order to seek solutions of which the masses in the Caribbean can approve.

On the other hand, in the Dutch Antilles, near the coast of Venezuela, the New Antillean Movement (MAN) headed by Don Martina, and the People's Electoral Movement (MEP), directed by Gilberto ("Betico") Croes, of Aruba, won the most votes.

Martina waged his electoral campaign under the banner of struggle against corruption and the evil administrative maneuvers of the government by the traditional party coalition under the leadership of prime minister Silvio Rosenthal.

The triumph of the two popular parties will, observers say, make it possible to take concrete steps toward the healthier organization of social and political life in the country.

The Dutch Antilles, including Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Martin, have a population of 240,000 and have "internal autonomy," while the Dutch government is responsible for their foreign relations and defense.

The political changes which have occurred in the small Caribbean islands explain the concern expressed by spokesmen for the Western powers which have dominated the peoples of the region in colonial or neocolonial form.

Three months ago Washington appointed a new diplomatic representative for the greater part of the islands in the area, with headquarters in Barbados--Ambassador Sally Shelton, an individual close to President James Carter.

Shelton, who is engaging in unprecedented activity in these small islands, has among her main goals the establishment of a so-called "regional security force," the concealed purpose of which is to frustrate any popular movement threatening US interests in this area. England and other countries with colonial interests in the region have not concealed their enthusiasm with regard to this project.

Institutionalization of Torture

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Oct 79 pp 34-39

[Article by Aurora Morera and Pedro Garcia: "The Box Score for Repression"]

[Text] It has not been possible to establish exactly the number of political prisoners, those who have disappeared or been exiled in Latin America. One day the precise figure and the fate of hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans will be known. For the time being, the estimates put the number well in excess of a million.

What is known with certainty is that the reason for this dramatic box score for repression must be sought in the resurgence of the imperialist escalation on the continent, following the failure of the US foreign policy with regard to Cuba.

Since the end of the 1950's, successive US governments have pursued a systematic policy of training specialists in repression and torture, who have had as their mentors the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the International Agency for Development (AID).

Even earlier, in the time of the dictatorships of Porfirio Diaz in Mexico and Juan Vicente Gomez in Venezuela, the concept of political imprisonment was abundantly used on the continent, but it was not until the

beginning of the 1960's that it acquired a dimension including highly technical methods of torture.

If indeed the slaughter of opposition politicians by the reactionary regimes established in El Salvador in 1932 and in Guatemala in 1954 are well known, the instances of more refined torture of those arrested for their political convictions were not made public until early in the 1960's.

It was in that era that US advisers specializing in the use of electric shock, Pentothal and experiments in other drugs came to such nations as Brazil, Guatemala, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Beginning then, the punishment of those arrested involved techniques perfected to cause greater pain and suffering and for the purpose of causing the moral, physical and psychological collapse of the victim.

Under the sponsorship of the so-called International Agency for Development, the CIA offered specialized courses for higher and subordinate officers in the police forces of these countries.

Three years ago a CIA plan for the physical elimination of outstanding Latin American political leaders, similar to Operation Phoenix, used by the United States to eliminate leaders opposed to the US policy in Vietnam, was revealed.

The existence of this plan was evidenced by the systematic elimination of a number of political leaders, including Chilean Gen Carlos Prats, assassinated in Buenos Aires, former foreign minister Orlando Letelier (Washington, 1976) and two Uruguayan opposition leaders, former minister Zelmar Michelini and former president of the chamber of deputies Hector Gutierrez Ruiz.

Repressive bodies such as the Chilean National Intelligence Department (the old DINA), the Brazilian National Intelligence Service, to name only two, are supported by the CIA in their activities against opponents of the dictatorships inside and outside these countries.

Simultaneously, untrarightist groups are active in various countries on the continent and, with the tacit approval of their governments, they have murdered thousands of political activists in 20 years.

This is the case with the Death Squadron in Brazil, which is responsible for about six thousand assassinations, the Organized National Anti-communist Movement (MANO) in Guatemala, and the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (AAA), among others.

Formed more recently, a so-called Carevic Command has also emerged in Chile to strengthen the repressive government laws against the activities of the antifascist resistance.

In the United States

Public recognition of the existence of hundreds and perhaps thousands of political prisoners in the United States about a year ago by the ambassador of that country to the United Nations, Andrew Young, placed the government of James Carter in an embarrassing situation with regard to its campaign on human rights.

Until then, the authorities in the United States referred to these citizens as "ordinary criminals."

Traditionally, and in particular since the early years of the so-called "cold war," the US court system used the pretext of ordinary crime in convicting citizens for political activism or campaigning for civil rights.

In these cases it always had the support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the CIA, bodies which perfected their methods of espionage, violation of citizens' rights and provocation of progressive institutions.

On the other hand, the prison system for men and women is undifferentiated. They are seen as equal physically and morally, and on many occasions matters were carried as far as the prearranged murder of political leaders such as George Jackson, one of the so-called Soledad Brothers.

The crimes against Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, or the trade union leader Joseph Yablonski, many times arrested on false charges, were of this nature.

The FBI and the corrupt organizations in the service of the most conservative political circles of the US government in power have been denounced for such deeds.

According to the charges, the CIA and the FBI have undertaken experiments with drugs and other pseudoscientific methods in their own country on various prisoners, thus contributiong to the training of "specialists" from numerous countries in methods of torture and repression.

Most Notable Trials

Four Puerto Rican activists for independence, the political prisoners held longest in the United States--Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel, Oscar

Collazo and Irving Flores--were recently released by President Carter under heavy pressure from international public opinion, after remaining incarcerated for 25 years.

Another case involved prisoners known as the "Wilmington 10," including Baptist minister Ben Chavis, who were sentenced to a total of 282 years in prison in 1974.

In the trial of the Charlotte three the Department of Justice paid $80,000 to drug traffickers to testify falsely.

A group of black high school students called the "Ayden 11" were sentenced to a total of 113 years for causing a "public disturbance."

Also sentenced, despite the lack of evidence, were the poet and theology student Debber Tibbs, black trade union member George Merritt, political activist Assata Shakur and the young Joan Little.

The Central American Region

Three Central American nations enjoy the sad notoriety of being the top ranking nations where political prisoners, the violation of human rights and the systematic avocation of torture and other repressive methods are concerned.

Nicaragua, where the Sandinist National Liberation Front has successfully culminated the acute struggle against the regime of Anastasio Somoza, has been a headquarters for disrespect for human life for more than 40 years.

The ousted Somoza tyranny engendered thanks to US intervention early in the 1930's murdered Augusto Cesar Sandino and numerous other patriots and introduced the torturing of political prisoners.

In the last months of the victorious popular struggle, genocide by the forces of Somoza spread throughout the country, particularly to the cities of Esteli, Leon, Chinandega and Managua, the scene of clashes between the popular and army forces.

Conservative estimates place the number of victims of the repressive regime in this period at at least 30,000, in addition to the 200,000 refugees who fled to neighboring countries.

The human rights situation in Nicaragua, prior to Somoza's fall, led to condemnation by the United Nations, the Red Cross and other international organizations.

Guatemala and El Salvador, nations in which successive military regimes have alternated in power since 1954 and 1932, repsectively, have similar characteristics.

In Guatemala, repression has reached equally dramatic heights and although the number of political prisoners and exiles is not precisely known, the greater part of the evidence indicates that the number far exceeds 3,000.

Since the 1904 coup d'etat against the progressive government of Jacobo Arbenz, terror has reigned in the territory of Guatemala. Paramilitary groups have proliferated, persecuting and murdering at least 70,000 persons, along with the police and army, by 1979, according to known figures.

The repressive methods used were the product of the teaching provided by the Guatemalan military at US bases in the Panama Canal, or two missions established in the country.

All kinds of groups, including foreign religious missions, are persecuted, and all trade union or student activity is prohibited, as is that of political parties, regardless of type.

In El Salvador, there has been generalized terror with characteristics similar to that in Guatemala since the 1932 massacre which cost at least 30,000 persons their lives.

From 1977 to the present more than 500,000 persons have passed through the prisons, and 200 persons have disappeared, including well-known political and trade union leaders.

In various international forums and bodies the dramatic situation experienced by the people of El Salvador, who have been forced to abandon entire settlements because of repression by the army and the paramilitary bands supported by the regime, has been set forth.

The testimony of prisoners who have succeeded in escaping from detention described methods of torture such as the amputation of organs, application of electrical current, hanging and a number of variants causing physical destruction.

Thousands of citizens of El Salvador are currently living in exile and an equal number have gone underground in their own country, where the struggle against the regime in power is continuing and strengthening daily.

Haiti--A Caribbean Hell

In 22 years of dictatorship by father and son, Francois and Jean Claude Duvalier, more than 30,000 Haitians have been assassinated and a million have gone into exile. Francois Duvalier, who took power in 1957 and became president for life, died leaving the same title to his son Jean Claude, in April of 1971.

United States governments and that of James Carter in particular have contributed one after the other to swelling the military budgets of Haiti, going from $875,000 to $1,100,000 in 1977.

The training of the paramilitary groups, the Tontons Macoutes and the Leopards, is also the responsibility of US experts.

Haitian democratic organizations estimate the political prisoners in Haiti at 3,000, mainly in the prisons at Fort Dimanche, the national penitentiary and Dessalines, where torture methods ranging from those used in the slave days to electrical current and drugs are used.

Eleven politicians who had been imprisoned but were released in September of 1977 to improve the image of the regime, and also because of pressure from international public opinion, reported the assassination of prisoners and the subhuman conditions in which they are kept.

Haiti, the first Latin American country to proclaim its independence, in 1804, enjoys the sad privilege today of being the poorest nation on the continent.

Brazil--Policemen of the Southern Cone

The repressive activity of the Brazilian regime in the last 15 years has exceeded national boundaries. A considerable portion of what has happened in Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile and Paraguay must be laid at the feet of the right wing military in Brazil, not only in terms of the liquidation of progressive or liberal governments, but also the supply of repressive "technology" and equipment. An example of the export of Brazilian torture is the "nitta stick" (laurel branch), used today in the adjacent countries.

It has also been charged that there is an agreement among the Brazilian, Argentine, Uruguayan and Paraguayan police forces on the exchange of political prisoners across frontiers, and allowing the free action of agents from one country in the territory of the others.

Following the 1964 military coup, the Brazilian people were subjected to a process of repression which eliminated a large part of their political and social rights, won painfully throughout their history.

Political democracy was trampled under by dozens of institutional acts, successive constitutional amendments, and ever more drastic modifications of the National Security Law, which in the end came to incorporate all of the "inventions" of the legal advisers to Hitler and Mussolini.

The consequences of these repressive measures were reported recently by the Brazilian Committee for Amnesty in a list of the names of 235 persons who have died or disappeared in the last 15 years of military regime.

Between 1969 and 1975 alone, 171 political prisoners were sentenced by the Brazilian courts, and of these, 81 disappeared within that period. Under the military government, more than 180 persons have died for their political beliefs. To these must be added thousands in exile, assassinated or banished abroad.

Still incomplete investigations reveal that about half a million Brazilians have been arrested at various times for political reasons.

As if this were not enough, the parapolice body known as the "Death Squadron," which supposedly executes incorrigible criminals, has added to its macabre list of about 6,000 victims several thousand of leftist militants and trade union and student movement leaders.

Tierra del Fuego

In the triangle extending toward the southern tip of the continent, four countries have a high level of torture, political arrests and violation of human rights.

Uruguay, once called the "Switzerland of America," has been the scene for some years of the most adamant censorship and repression of the popular sectors. Currently more than 6,000 political prisoners are undergoing horrible torture in its prisons.

An analysis of the cold statistics provides a picture of this destroyed land: One out of every 40 Uruguayans has been arrested at least once, one out of every five has gone into exile, and about 25,000 persons have undergone all kinds of torture.

The regime gives priority to the building of prisons, but it has also used sports facilities, expropriated trade union premises and even private homes which have been converted into torture centers.

Chile

Thousands of political prisoners, an absolute lack of civic freedom, and about 2,500 persons disappeared--some dead in secret cemetaries--have won the military junta of Chile the condemnation of the United Nations for five consecutive years.

This reiterated rejection, along with that of the international public, began immediately after the 11 September 1973 coup d'etat, following which more than 42,000 Chilean citizens and foreign refugees were arrested, jailed, tortured or deported to their countries of origin, such as Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

This whole picture is completed by the outlying of the political parties, intervention in the universities, the destruction of cultural values and the denial of the right of more than 20,000 Chileans in exile to return to the country.

In the view of the United Nations General Assembly, the disappearance of almost 3,000 persons and the finding of secret cemetaries in Chile represents "one of the most serious problems affecting mankind."

Paraguay

Twenty-five years of a state of emergency, assassinations and torture characterize the regime of Alfredo Stroessner, of whom it is said that in practical terms, his will alone is the constitution in Paraguay.

According to figures from international bodies, more than 2,500 persons have passed through the Paraguyan prison (some 600 for every 400,000 inhabitants), hundreds have disappeared--after being arrested by the criminal investigation department, and more than half of the population has had to go into exile.

Stroessner's regime regards dozens of children born in prison and forced to remain there (some of them for 8 or 10 years) as political prisoners, and they are subjected to the same inhuman conditions, including torture, as their parents.

In those few cases in which there have been trials, the accused is often unaware of the verdict of the court. Currently there are in this country hundreds who have been in prison for up to 20 years, although they were sentenced to serve only 7 or 8, while hundreds of others have never been tried.

Argentina

The fact that almost 4,000 persons are being held at the whim of the executive branch and at least 5,000 have disappeared represents one of the main current problems in Argentina. The military government rejects the description "political prisoners" for about 4,000 persons arrested on its orders, but the fact is that these arrests occurred as the result of charges of violation of the state of emergency norms.

To these prisoners must be added an unknown number of those who have been sentenced for or are charged with "subsersive activity."

But the most difficult problem involves the case of those who have disappeared, reaching a total of 4,881 duly proven cases, as of the most recent figures, up to October 1978.

There are four bodies concerned with these problems in the country: the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, the Commission of Families of Those Who Have Disappeared or Were Arrested for Political Reasons, the Argentine League for Human Rights and the Ecuminical Movement for Human Rights.

These organizations gather information on those who have disappeared, pursue various campaigns demanding government clarification and publish paid advertisements in the daily newspapers voicing their demands, among other activities.

Parallel to this, a group of women members of whose families have disappeared, made silent pilgrimages to government buildings every Thursday for more than two years, but at the beginning of this year, some of these women were arrested and these demonstrations were officially prohibited.

The problem has created concern in political and trade union organizations, and last December, President Jorge Videla was even presented with a petition signed by 42,500 persons demanding a solution.

Columbia and Its Security Statutes

Only a few months after the rise to power of Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, the executive branch approved a so-called "security statute" making it possible to intensify the virtual state of emergency in which Columbia has lived since 1948.

Widely censured throughout the country, the statutes have led since October of 1978 to a wave of searches, arrests and trials of leaders of trade unions, student and various political groups.

Numerous prisoners have charged that the investigators of the Military Institutes Brigade (BIM) have used systems of torture on them, a practice which intensified after the theft of weapons from an arsenal of that military body located in Bogota by the 19 April Movement.

A house of representatives commission was appointed to investigate the charges, but the office of the prosecutor general and the cabinet denied that torture had been used.

According to reports, under the provisions of the security statutes, strengthened now by Article 28 of the constitution, which allows arrests on "suspicion," more than 1,500 persons have been arrested in recent weeks.

This situation, denounced at the human rights forums on a national level in which various political, worker, student and cultural sectors have participated, has not been altered by the present government.

Fort Dimanche

"Every kind of disease is to be found in Fort Dimanche (one of the prisons in Haiti). The most common are tuberculosis, vitamin deficiency, dysentary and acute gastric ailments. To relieve the latter, we drank a few swallows of urine. These already inhuman conditions have worsened in the last two years, while the regime boasts on all sides about a supposed campaign of liberalization. In 1974 44 prisoners died. The total in 1975 was 56, that in 1976 96, and in 1977 there were more than 100. Death is routine in Fort Dimanche. Sometimes we had corpes in the cells for many hours before they came to collect them and throw them to the dogs. Those who did not die lost their faculties little by little, since all of the tortures were designed to depersonalize us. Between 1976 and 1977 there were more than 20 summary executions, without any judicial process or trial at all. I was released at the end of 1977 without ever having any formal charges filed against me, or ever seeing a lawyer or a judge." (Testimony by Marc Antoine Marsan published at the end of 1978.)

A Large Shed

Maria Elena Curbelo de Mirza, attended the 11th Youth and Students' Festival held in Havana, Cuba in July of 1978. She made the following statement to the press:

". . . It is terrible to be in any prison in my country. During visits--a half-hour every fifteen days--one cannot discuss third persons or anything to do with the outside. In prison one never sees a ray of sunshine or stars or flowers. Nor can one keep letters from the family--just one picture. The 300-K prison, one of the most "refined," is a huge shed where as soon as you arrive you see the tortured prisoners, those lying exhausted by physical mistreatment. But there, as in all the people, one finds the will to win, determination to struggle and faith in victory."

The organizations opposing the fascist in Uruguay estimate the number of political prisoners in the country at 7,000, including more than 500 women. The number of Uruguayans in exile throughout the world has exceeded a half-million persons in recent years.

The Long Arm of the Junta

In December of 1978, the remains of 27 individuals were found, seemingly by accident, in the old lime quarry in Lonquen, near Santiago de Chile.

The bodies, many of them dead and riddled with bullets, were identified in a long and controversial process which the military authorities tried to block.

Finally, the charges that they were citizens arrested and later murdered by the regime were confirmed. But the repression by the military junta also reaches out to Chilean citizens beyond the frontiers of their own country, as in the case of the assassination in Washington of the former Popular Unity foreign minister, Orlando Letelier (1976), the murder of Gen Carlos Prats in Argentina (1974), and the attack on the Christian Democratic leader Bernardo Leighton in Rome (1975).

Latin American Economic System

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Oct 79 p 58

[Article by Jose Bodes Gomez: "Latin America for the Latin Americans"]

[Text] The Latin American Economic System (SELA) completes its fourth year of existence this year, and the new members of the permanent secretariat will take office at the headquarters of the body in Caracas. Jaime Moncayo of Ecuador will be replaced by Carlos Alzamore Traverso, 54, a diplomat with a long service career outside his country (Peru). The new head of the SELA has served in posts in Geneva and at the United Nations, among others.

The establishment of the SELA begins a new chapter in history of the international economic relations of this region of the world. The SELA, as the Panama Agreement which created it says, is a regional body for mutual economic and social consultation, coordination, cooperation and development, of a permanent nature and with an international legal status, made up of sovereign Latin American nations. Among the principles which serve as a basis for its activity there is one of singular importance: respect for differences in political, economic and social systems.

The great significance of this principle lies in the fact that, for the first time in our region, a socialist country is participating on a footing of equality with the other Latin American nations in an economic cooperation body. Previously, and since the triumph of its revolution in 1959, Cuba had been excluded from the various bodies established for the purpose (at least so stated) of coordinating the tasks of development in the republics south of the Rio Grande.

The idea of Latin American unity has profound historical roots in our peoples. It can be said that it was born along with the founding of the first republics, in the dawn of the last century, and in Simon Bolivar it had its most illustrious promoter in that initial era. Decades later, another eminent son of these lands, Jose Marti, mindful of the danger of the great imperialist force already preparing to fall upon the wealth of its continental neighbors, revitalized this goal of uniting "our America."

However, the warnings about the Yankee imperialism did not suffice to counteract its onslaught and in the first decades of this century this process of domination was completed. With the policy of the "big stick" first and the "good neighbor" later, the United States government, through its companies, lawyers and technicians, took possession of the best land, mines and public services in the Latin American countries. Sometimes this was done by armed intervention and in other cases through bloodless subjection and winning a dominant position in the political developments in the region, which had become its "back yard."

This was the era of the greatest influence of the old Monroe Doctrine, which preached "America for the Americans," but this meant the North Americans, as the bitter humor of those who suffer from this community based on the well-being of some and the sacrifice of other points out. But the exploiting classes on both sides made a point of ignoring this reality, maintaining an idyllic alliance of political and economic interests which in practice, has served only to defend the privileges of a minority at the cost of plunging a majority into poverty.

The Cuban revolution meant the breaking of the first link in the chain of the former private preserve. Immediately all of the resources of imperialist power were put to work to isolate the largest of the Caribbean islands, a policy crudely implemented by the economic blockade decreed almost two decades ago by the United States government and which has endured to our date regardless of the parade of various presidents through the White House.

Meanwhile, the economic relations between the United States and Latin America have developed tensions such as had never before been seen, and which perhaps it was not even suspected could develop.

The US foreign trade law promulgated in 1975 excluded Ecuador and Venezuela from the customs preference system because of their membership in the OPEC. Every so often the more bellicose Washington circles renew their thrusts against the 200 mile maritime territorial limit maintained for some years by a number of Latin American nations. The delay by the United States in ratifying the international sugar agreement, almost two years after its signing, is having a negative effect on the prices for this basic product, which is truly basic for the economy of various underdeveloped nations inside and outside the region.

All of these situations create unease and friction in hemisphere economic relations. The talks between the parties do not yield satisfactory results, as the recent meetings of the Special Commission for Consultation and Negotiation (CECON) reveal, and the repeated failures of the bilateral system, to which the US governments are so devoted, has served to strengthen Latin American interests in intraregional collaboration.

Institutions such as the SELA are creating the conditions for greater independence and well-being for the Latin American countries. However, their advance involves the difficulties inherent in a system in which there are still governments which have faith solely in the sponsorship of Washington in dealing with their economic problems. But as the last annual report of the SELA says, rising above differences and adverse situations, the activity of the body has been fruitful, since it reflects the political determination (of the majority, we would add) to plunge ever deeper into cooperation and joint action.

Technology Transfer Exploits Latin America

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Oct 79 pp 59-61

[Article by Hector Danilo Rodriguez: "The Gap Widens"]

[Text] Science, technology, and culture, held historically to be the patrimony of mankind, are becoming ever increasingly the mechanisms of economic compulsion and plundering of the so-called developing world.

Persuaded that their power knows no national frontiers, the large corporations are manipulating the sale of technology and making scientific knowledge into a frightening monopoly, either to impose the political criteria of their governments on the so-called Third World or to make the economic dependence of the countries in the process of development more acute.

The representatives of more than 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe who attended the Sixth Summit Meeting of the Movement of Nonalined Countries held in Havana recently, expressed their great concern about this problem, which is one of the many ways in which the developing countries are being bled economically.

The chiefs of state who attended the Havana summit meeting exhorted the governments of the countries with market economies to be aware of this critical situation making the establishment of a new international economic order more distant, while at the same time consolidating criteria for undertaking joint actions within the United Nations, for the purpose of strengthening their negotiating capacity and gaining access to technology in the most equitable form and without burdensome political commitments.

The omnipotent and unilateral atmosphere prevailing during the debates at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held in Vienna last August, justifies the concern of the nonalined countries.

While this community of nations demands of the industrialized countries free access to scientific knowledge and the elimination of hindrances to the better application of science to industrial development, the representatives of the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan have continued to insist that these things are matters of an evidently commercial nature.

The industrialized countries in the West defended the areas of action of the transnational companies, arguing that the technological achievements are the products of their laboratories, and that scientific and technical rights should be protected by licenses and patents, the cost of which very often absorbs a large part of the valie of the exports of the developing nations. The North American transnational companies collect 4 billion dollars annually for the use of their technology in foreign countries, studies submitted at the Vienna conference revealed.

William Maynes, an assistant undersecretary of state in the United States, indicated during the conference the limited interest of his country in strengthening the scientific and technological capacity of the Third World, with the following categorical statement. "It is the businessmen and not the diplomats who have access to technology. It can hardly be the object of negotiation at the expense of incentives for private industry."

In view of the fact that all of the undertakings sponsored by the UNCTAD with a view to negotiating a code of conduct for the transfer of the technology with the capitalist countries have been neutralized, and that the results of the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on this subject have been practically nonexistent, one can conclude that the gap between the so-called "rich and poor" will continue to widen in the future.

The Technological Gap

The prevailing international economic relations forced the countries of the Third World to distort their economies, sacrificing their industrial and technological development to become nothing more than suppliers of raw materials for Western industry.

In 1975 LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE reported that the developing nations generated 40 percent of the iron consumed by the Western nations, while they accounted for only 4.5 percent of the steel production. The complex

of the entire Third World accounts for 64.5 percent of the total for bauxite, while the role of these nations in aluminum production is less than 7 percent.

An UNCTAD study made in March of 1979 clearly revealed that the capitalist countries have not the slightest interest in developing the industry and technology in the developing countries which they choose as locations for their affiliates.

According to this document, no progress can be seen in industrial processing in the developing countries. More than 80 percent of their exports of coffee, fish, iron, manganese and natural rubber is done in bulk.

The same study stressed that in 1970 the developing countries obtained less than a third of the gross added value of their exports of raw materials and basic products, because they had no opportunity to process them locally.

The magnitude of the gap can also be measured if we realize that Africa accounted for only 0.6 percent of the world industrial production in 1979, while it is considered that an optimal goal would be to reach 2 percent by the year 2000. With the next century 20 years away, the developing countries account for less than 9 percent of the industrial production of this earth.

On the other hand, the decapitalization which the so-called brain drain means to the Third World is a dramatic addition to the plunder being suffered by the developing countries.

The regional director of the UN Development Program (UNDP), Gabriel Valdes, said at the Latin American Intergovernmental Meeting on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries, held in Lima in May of 1979, that "the United States has taken out of Latin America, Asia and Africa 53,616 professional people earning it a net income equivalent to 50 billion dollars in the past ten years" (see Table below).

The pursuit of this line of action by the capitalist countries has excluding the developing nations from the scientific and technical revolution. This is evidenced by the fact that these countries account for only two percent of all the resources invested in scientific research throughout the world. On 16 August 1979, the Peruvian Minister of Planning, Gen Jorge Chavez, said before departing for the Vienna conference that the industrialized countries use science and technology "as tools of domination." And he added: "Ninety-five percent of the investment in research is made in the industrialized countries."

Proportional Figures for the Developing Countries
Out of the Total Number of Skilled Immigrants to the
United States, Canada and the United Kingdom (1961-1975/76)

Occupation and Country of Destination	Skilled Immigrants Coming From:		
	Developing Countries (1)	All Countries (2)	(1) As a Percentage of 2
	(number)		%
USA (1961-75)	118 816	190 813	62
Doctors and surgeons	40 876	56 447	72
Engineers and scientists	77 279	133 478	58
Other	661	888	74
Canada (1963-76)	81 613	297 211	27
Doctors, surgeons and dentists	4 850	13 023	37
Engineers and scientists	13 601	42 711	32
Other	63 162	241 477	26
United Kingdom (1964-72)	84 040	380 751	22
Doctors, surgeons and dentists	15 655	32 065	49
Engineers and scientists	9 225	54 705	17
Other	59 160	293 981	20
Total	284 469	868 775	33
Doctors, surgeons and dentists	61 381	101 535	60
Engineers and scientists	100 105	230 894	43
Other	122 983	536 346	23

Source: United Kingdom--TD/B/C.6/7, Table 3; United States--unpublished data supplied by the National Science Foundation; Canada--Labor and Immigration Department, "Immigration Statistics," quoted by UNCTAD, TD/23, May 1979.

Slight of Hand by the Transnational Companies

The transnational corporations, in particular those based in the US, confer upon their businessmen and the private sector linked to them a magic role: that of aiding the countries they call less privileged.

A high-ranking leader of the United States Agency for International Development, Daniel Parker, stated categorically in 1976 that the participation of the multinational corporations and business groups was essential to the development of the nonindustrialized world.

Hans Schaffner, a former Swiss federal council member and one of the standard bearers of the benevolent role of the transnational companies in the developing countries says that their presence provides the Third World countries with access to the most modern technology.

But the representatives of the nonalined countries who attended the Havana summit meeting rejected this fallacy, stating that these corporations sell them simple technologies, in many cases by way of an experiment, and in the majority of cases, noncompetitive, or even contaminating, as is the case in countries such as Puerto Rico which the United States maintains in a colonial status politically and economically.

If this were not enough for some readers, the revelations about this extremely important matter made by the Peruvian former Labor Minister under Velasco Alvarado, Gen Dante Paggi Moran, are conclusive. He stated that the so-called benefits provided by the transnational companies in connection with the sale of technology have done nothing but "generate problems in labor use" in the Andean Pact countries.

He added that "the technology these enterprises use is not adapted to the priority needs of the human resources," because the policy of the Peruvian government "is not directed toward a simple economist development, but rather toward balanced socioeconomic development and growth, wherein the worker is the very reason for the change."

The former Panamanian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Fernando Manfredo, referred to the problem of technological transfer in these terms in his annual report to the National Assembly on 27 October 1975: "The use of technology--which they do not transfer, but conceal--is a basic cause of greater unemployment and greater concentration in the distribution of income."

Relations of a New Type

To confuse the international public and the nonalined countries, the mass communications media in the United States and Western Europe have sought

to blame the socialist countries as well for the economic and technological lag suffered by the Third World.

These media state systematically and deliberately that the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are seeking either political benefit or raw materials in their relations with the developing countries, although from time to time they are forced to admit against their will that the USSR does not need the natural resources of these nations, as was done recently in the magazine BUSINESS WEEK.

The concept of economic and scientific-technical cooperation implemented by the socialist nations among themselves and with the rest of the underdeveloped nations belies these fallacies and moves the desire for the new international economic order ahead in time.

With the assistance of the member nations of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA), more than 1,200 economic goals have been set in Africa. For example, Algeria is modernizing its metallurgical plants with the cooperation of Soviet technicians, who are also making their contribution in other Afro-Asian countries.

Cuban technicians, doctors and scientists can now be seen in Nicaragua, helping to staunch the wounds caused by the Somoza genecide and elsewhere on the earth, sometimes raising laying hens as in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, training specialists as in Angola and Cape Verde, or collaborating with the Latin American nations in perfecting the sugar industry.

This new type of relations among countries in the process of development is a part of a new collective defense strategy which the nonalined nations have drafted and consolidated.

In their view the strengthening of economic and technical cooperation is a vital matter, one which can only reach the highest peaks if this group of very heterogeneous nations can succeed, as they have confirmed that they can, in acting with the greatest consistency and unity in their future international negotiations.

Cuban Controversy Analyzed

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Nov 79 p 21

[Article by Miguel Rivero: "Background of a Minicrisis"]

[Text] The artificial crisis created by the American government about the supposed presence of a Soviet brigade in Cuba is not the first of this kind in recent times.

At the end of 1978, the mass communications media and some US officials created another minicrisis, claiming that the presence of "dangerous offensive MIG-23 aircraft" had been detected in Cuba.

The president of Cuba, Fidel Castro, answered this in a press conference on 21 November, stating that these planes had been on the island for a year and that they were "absolutely tactical and defensive" aircraft.

"They have been flying and maneuvering for 8 months, and in addition they are expected to participate--this is absolutely no secret--in the 2 January fly-past," Fidel Castro said on that occasion.

In fact, the end of the parade held in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution was marked by a flight formation of a squadron of these MIG-23 planes flying over.

That minicrisis passed into oblivion, without achieving its goal.

For it is well to remember that the hue and cry raised about the MIG-23's coincided with the time of preparation for dialogue with the Cuban community abroad, and real steps were being taken toward the release of more than 3,000 imprisoned for counterrevolutionary crimes.

But this was really the second effort made in 1978 in an effort to affect the process begun to normalize relations between Cuba and the United States.

In the middle of that same year, a number of US officials, outstanding among them Carter's adviser on security matters, Zbigniew Brzezinski, attempted to place the responsibility directly on the Cuban government for the events which had occurred in the province of Shaba in Zaire.

On that occasion, Katangan elements incited an armed rebellion in the province of Shaba, and the situation led the Cuban government to halt the process of reducing military personnel assigned to Angola.

The minicrisis pertaining to the presumed presence in Cuba of a "combat brigade of Soviet soldiers" was essentially similar to the previous ones.

However, in the context in which it is situated, it serves as a barometer showing that within the Carter administration the more aggressive and reactionary circles led by the adviser Brzezinski have taken over the leading role.

In this situation, Carter has not been deceived, for it is inconceivable that he could be unaware of the presence in Cuba for 17 years of a center for the training and drilling of Cuban troops at which Soviet work.

What began on 30 August, seemingly as yet another propaganda maneuver directed against the Sixth Summit Meeting of Nonalined Countries was hastily and artificially converted into a "crisis."

Everything seems to indicate that in the electoral climate into which the US politicians have already plunged, the cult of rhetoric, in which the candidates must show themselves to be the "hardest" and "most demanding," prevails.

James Carter has without a doubt fallen into this trap laid for him by Brzezinski and other Pentagon circles.

The words of Carter himself last 7 September, when he spoke in a "ridiculously pathetic" manner on television, as the newspaper GRANMA, the organ of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, described it, shows how contradictory and ridiculous the situation is.

On that occasion, the president of the United States announced that the presumed brigade "is equipped with conventional weapons, such as some 40 tanks and some land artillery weapons."

He said further that "this is not an attack force. It has no air or naval transport capacity, nor does it include weapons capable of attacking the United States."

In view of this statement, the most naive US reader will wonder what then is the reason for such an exaggerated show of fear about the matter.

The explanation lies in the fact that, first of all, an attempt was made to use this as a weapon against the Sixth Summit Meeting of Nonalined Countries, to represent Cuba as a mere "pawn of Soviet interests."

Later the more reactionary circles in the United States went farther, making the matter into a weapon of blackmail against the Soviet Union, placing the ratification by the US Congress of the Salt II agreements signed in Vienna by James Carter and Leonid Brezhnev in jeopardy.

We encounter the height of ridicule and contradiction in some statements made on this matter by the spokesman for the State Department, Hodding Carter, quoted by LE MONDE on 2 September, in which he admitted that the presence of the Soviet military forces in Cuba "does not represent a violation of the agreement signed by Kennedy and Khrushchev in 1962, at the end of the international crisis caused by the Soviet missile installation in Cuba."

"According to the terms of this agreement," the spokesman added, "which were confirmed in 1970, the Soviet Union is simply prohibited from installing "offensive weapons systems" in Cuba.

A brief analysis of these elements leads to the conclusion that it is entirely absurd and irresponsible to put world peace and the reelection of a US president in jeopardy because of the presence of Soviet soldiers in Cuba, who have been doing this work of advising and training troops for more than 17 years.

Could it be that Brzezinski, instead of working for Carter's reelection, is working for the other side?

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CSO: 3010

BARBADOS' COL BANFIELD: ST VINCENT ACTION WAS JUSTIFIED

FL2/1300 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Dec 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Chief of staff of the Barbados Defence Force, Colonel Leonard Banfield, said yesterday that the sending of troops to the uprising in the St. Vincent Ward, Union Island, was 'justified militarily.

"I discovered when I reached Union Island and St. Vincent on Tuesday last that the Vincentian police were in possession of sufficient intelligence to justify the action that was taken," he said in a television interview last night.

The defence force troops returned to Barbados yesterday amidst opposition attacks on government over the decision to send them to St. Vincent.

The opposition Democratic Labour Party is to file a motion of no confidence in prime minister and minister of defence and security, Tome Adams, at today's sitting of the House of Assembly.

Mr. Adams will be making a statement before Parliament for the first time today.

Colonel Banfield, who was one of the members of the defence force that went to St. Vincent, denied that there was harassment by defence force personnel of Vincentians.

"This is utterly absurd, there was no such thing done by the troops sent down there," he said.

On the other hand, he denied that there was animosity by Vicentians to the Barbadian troops.

Colonel Banfield said that any suggestion of animosity only became apparent after various news broadcasts from Barbados.

"People listened to transsisters, they heard of the debate in the House of Assembly and a few individuals, when you pass the road, would sort of make a noise that 'you come down here with ya gun," he added.

He said, however, that these were "the fellows with the long hair."

"But for every one of them that made a remark like that there were 50 other Vincentians that were begging us to stay," Colonel Banfield said.

He said that people met the defence force soldiers on the roads yesterday and asked whether they had to go.

Colonel Banfield said that the police in St. Vincent were stretched out and it was therefore necessary for the Barbados troops to go.

"The police in St. Vincent had certain information and they went to search and recover arms that were used in the uprising a couple days before they are very stretched out...there is a state of emergency on, there is a curfew that they have to deal with and men get tired."

Colonle Banfield said that the Barbados troops were an "excellent back-up to the Vincentian police.

"It boosted their morale and the camaraderie that existed between the two forces was exemplary," he said.

"We were there to assist the police, we harassed no one and where it became a police operation we left it to the police, where they needed our techniques and assistance we helped them but never once was anyone from Barbados involved in any harassment, threatening or anything like that."

Colonel Banfield said that he even forbade his men putting 'magazines' on their weapons.

CSO: 3020

ANTIGUA, VENEZUELA SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR CRUDE OIL, OTHER COOPERATION

FL251245 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 79 p 3 FL

[Text] St John's, Antigua, 20 Dec (CANA)--Oil-rich Venezuela is to supply Antigua with crude to facilitate resumption of refining operations at the West Indies oil refinery here, it has been officially announced.

The United States company, Natomas, which operated the refinery, stopped its operations in 1975 after stating that it was losing money. The refinery was subsequently bought over by government but refining has not resumed.

The Venezuelan pledge has come in a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs and Defence. It follows the return of Premier Vere Bird and a four-man delegation from an official visit to Caracas.

The statement said the two-day visit culminated in the signing of an instrument for an agreement between Antigua and Venezuela on a wide range of matters.

These include mutual co-operation between the two countries on matters relating to energy, industry, agriculture, construction, technical assistance, education and culture, sports, tourism and social development.

The release also said that the assurances were obtained from President Luis Herrera Campins for Venezuela to supply crude oil regularly to reactivate the West Indies oil refinery.

It said too that the premier also obtained assurances from the Government of Venezuela that favourable consideration will be given to the development of direct air and sea transportation links between the two countries.

According to the release, the Venezuelan authorities pledged technical, financial and other aid to the Government of Antigua on a wide range of matters including education, tourism promotion and sports.

It was also agreed that a team of tourism officials will visit Antigua early next year to promote the flow of tourists from Venezuela to Antigua.

CSO: 3020

MEXICO-VENEZUELA DISCUSS OIL SECTOR COOPERATION

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Dec 79 p D-13

[Text] A broad range of possible cooperation between Venezuela and Mexico exists in the oil and petrochemicals sector, according to delegates of the two countries who held a 3-day meeting in Caracas.

This is one of the fundamental conclusions drawn in the final report of the meeting, that was signed by the heads of the two delegations, Dr Asdrubal Aguiar, Venezuelan vice minister of foreign affairs, and Attorney Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, Mexican undersecretary for economic affairs in the Secretariat of Foreign Relations.

The final report of the 3-day examination of gains and failures in the bilateral relations between the two countries establishes the following facts, findings and conclusions:

1. The decade of the 1980's opens a vast opportunity for international cooperation in the interest of development, which demands a clear indication of political intent within the international community, and especially among the developed countries, to bring to realization the common objectives of the developing countries.

2. Since 1975, a trade balance deficit has existed for Venezuela in the relations between the two countries. Their reciprocal trade, moreover, represents a very minor part of each of the two countries' total trade, and its structure and composition leave much to be desired in regard to diversification.

Discrepancies were found to exist between the statistics of the two countries. It was therefore agreed to set up a mechanism for the interchange of information between the foreign trade institutions of the two governments.

Lists of exportable products of mutual interest were exchanged and agreement was expressed on the need to bring these lists to the attention of sectors interested in these trade opportunities.

3. Respective views were exchanged on the evolution and outlook in regard to Latin American integration, and agreement was reached to recommend to the respective governments that they continue their support of existing plans.

A reorientation of LAFTA is recommended, to enable it, by way of new instrumentalities, to fulfill a broader function in the scheme of regional integration.

The two delegations also expressed their support of the SELA [Latin American Economic System].

4. The two delegations agreed on the desirability of defining forms of industrial complementarity and joint investment projects, taking into account the sectorial priorities of their respective industrial development policies and plans, as well as applicable legal provisions. To this effect, they pointed up the need to promote contacts between the public and private sectors of the two countries.

Both delegations expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the 1966 agreement on reciprocal credits has functioned.

Specifically, the Venezuelan FINEXPO [Export Financing Fund] manifested its willingness to consider, as a matter of interest to it, the opening of a credit line to Mexican financial institutions with a view to promoting trade between the two countries. It presented a draft agreement to this effect.

For its part, the Mexican delegation stated that its country's National Bank of Foreign Trade is also prepared to cooperate with FINEXPO in the field of technical financial assistance.

5. In the transportation and communications sector, the following steps were taken:

a) A draft bilateral agreement on maritime transportation was presented for consideration by the two governments, to be negotiated over the medium term (1982-1983).

b) Both delegations expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the air transportation agreement has functioned.

c) In the area of dredging, the Canalization Institute offered its services to Mexico.

d) Work was started on drawing up the 1980-1981 working plan flowing from the agreement on tourism signed by the two countries.

6. In the social security sector, the IVSS [Venezuelan Social Security Institute] expressed its interest in learning more about the Mexican general and family medicine system and in requesting Mexico's cooperation in the field of administration and maintenance of medical centers and hospitals. Similarly, the Mexican delegation expressed its desire to learn more about the Venezuelan system of day care centers.

Other areas were also reviewed, such as: statistics and informatics, seismological research, environmental protection, education, training of human resources.

In the human resources sector, the Venezuelan delegation suggested to the Mexican one the possibility of negotiating a specific number of scholarships for Venezuelans to study in Mexico and Mexicans to study in Venezuela.

8 [as published]. In the oil, petrochemical and steel sectors, the two delegations agreed that, taking into account the experience gained by Mexico and Venezuela in their respective oil and petrochemical industries, a wide range of cooperation between the two countries is possible, by way of implementation of technical assistance programs, interchange of technical information, and training and development of human resources.

In this area, the delegations agreed to make the following recommendations:

a) Interchange of information between the Petroleum and Petrochemical Training Institute and the IMP [Mexican Petroleum Institute].

b) A speedup of proceedings toward conclusion of agreements between the INTEVEP [Venezuelan Institute of Applied Technology] and the IMP relating to research on applied technology in the petroleum industry.

c) A search for mutual complementarity formulas for developing the industrial production of equipment for the petroleum sector.

As regards steel, the delegations agreed that cooperation has been satisfactory in this sector. Special mention was made of the agreements that have been in operation between the Lazaro Cardenas Iron and Steelworks and the SIDOR [Orinoco Iron and Steelworks].

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CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

BARBADIAN SOLDIERS RELIEVE VINCENTIAN POLICE--Kingstown, St Vincent, 17 Dec (CANA)--Police Commissioner E. B. Jackson today denied reports that Barbadian soldiers were involved in an exchange of fire with and in capturing rebels who seized the airstrip, government revenue office, and police station on St. Vincent-administered Union Island on December 7. The charges were made by former St. Vincent premier, James Mitchell, after the Barbados prime minister, Tom Adams, told Parliament that the soldiers had been sent into St. Vincent to relieve Vincentian police of routine patrolling and guard duty so they could crush the secessionist-inspired rebellion. Commissioner Jackson said the Barbadian soldiers spent several hours on Union Island Thursday last, but only stood guard while Vincentian police searched for arms and arrested some of the rebels. [Text] [FL241303 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Dec 79 p 1 FL]

CSO: 3020

PAPER DEFINES NAVY'S POSITION REGARDING POLITICAL PLAN

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 25 Nov 79 p 10

[Text] Risks of Voluntarism

In one of the most realistic speeches recently issued from the military camp, the commander-in-chief of the Navy admitted that he and his men are aware of the risks of the kind of "formalistic voluntarism according to which many people may believe that the political program can be reduced to a more or less well-argued theoretical formulation whose precepts will inexorably be implemented in practice through the mere fact that they have been uttered."

Within the next 30 days the publication of a political plan issued by the military junta is expected in political circles, but due rather to an inveterate curiosity about official documents of this sort than the conviction that there might be any spectacular announcement on such matters before the end of the year.

Strictly speaking, the plan, or program, to adopt the term used by the Navy chief, will propose nothing less than the guidelines to be followed in a formal political dialogue with representatives of political parties and trends of civilian thought.

This would mean a real change of image and, therefore, a significant new factor, since up to now the junta's military policy has been one of frankly invulnerable isolation as regards such segments of the population. But such has not been the case. On the contrary, the most responsible political leaders have periodically engaged in conversations with top-ranking officers of the three Armed Forces, most often on the initiative of the military participants in the dialogue.

However, while many of these conversations, reserved in nature, have ordinarily evolved taking into account the true partisan representation of the political leaders thus convoked, it is undeniable that, in initiating a dialogue open to all, the military have refrained from speaking with some high-ranking leaders, choosing instead second-rate figures who, although they may be coming up in the political world, are probably less controversial than those of the old guard.

Preliminary Feints

We will have to wait until summer is over to really find out how the dialogue will be channeled in this respect. For now, we know that the Armed Forces have managed to set up a reduced list of citizens with whom they are talking in an informative way — some have already appeared before the three Armed Forces, others have in part done so and still others take it for granted that they will be summoned at any moment — about the outlines of the political program. Among others, the following are to be convoked: Socialist Democrat Americo Ghioldi, Progressive Democrat Alberto Natale, Manriquista Guillermo Fernandez Gill, Mendoza Democrat Amadeo Frugoli, Radical Cesar Garcia Puente and Corrientes Autonomist Jose Romero Feris. And also certain civilian figures who, although they do not have both feet firmly planted in one party or another, have seen their political influence growing for some time now due to the fact that they have participated in certain policy-making operations. This is the case with Dr Norberto Peruzotti, the executive director of the Association of Banks of Buenos Aires.

It cannot in all cases be said of the above-mentioned politicians that they are the natural leaders of their respective parties, but it can be said that they are considered to be better than others from a military point of view. In any event, a news item was published in yesterday's LA NACION which could have little meaning for the uninformed reader because of its ambiguity but which could hardly have escaped the notice of the Armed Forces' specifically political organizations. The chairman of the Democratic Party of Mendoza and a group of people with the same political views turned up with a signed statement, bitter in tone, in which they noted that this group had never been consulted and, therefore, any interview regarding political issues that had been conducted was done so on a purely personal basis. In other words, without exactly saying so, they were crying to heaven over the fact that ex-senator, Dr Frugoli, had been summoned to discuss matters by the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. If this could happen to someone who projects a much greater national figure than that of potential opponents, what would happen with questions that might be raised in other cases when those who are convoked do not really have enough political stature?

Importance of a Dialogue

If there was something lacking to complete the deflation of erroneous expectations as to the chances for the long-term success of a political program administered solely by the military, Admiral Lambruschini filled the gap when, in a speech delivered at the Engineers Center on Thursday, he said: "We cannot provide this political program with secure and stable bases and content," he said, "without engaging in a profound, calm and honest dialogue with the most representative sectors of the population. That is, the Armed Forces have no intention of conducting a system of government and of relations between those who govern and those who are governed behind the backs of the people, as if they were the exclusive proprietors of the truth."

This last sentiment, referring to the fact that the success of a political decision does not necessarily depend on its execution by the military, was first expressed some time ago in a speech made by the commander-in-chief of the Army.

In like manner, in other statements made by the military not so long ago, there have been constant references to the collective blame for the Argentine political confrontation, but Admiral Lambruschini's speech went even a bit deeper. First, because it was precisely to the political program that he was referring when he observed that "those who comprise the Armed Forces have made mistakes in the past too." Second, because, as a result of this, it followed that "we do not now consider ourselves excused from the need for engaging in sincere and profound self-criticism and for considering the contribution of all Argentines to be fundamental."

Time As a Factor

General Menendez' revolt at the end of September was an event that was produced, planned and aborted strictly within the Army. The basic reason for the former Third Corps commander's revolt was that, in his opinion, the revolutionary powers of a de facto government were not being fully exercised. In reality, the question lies not so much in determining whether these powers are being exercised as in establishing to what extent it is possible to exercise them while ignoring factors other than the military: political, economic, social, ecclesiastical and international. There is another factor, time, in the sense of the flexibility that is of necessity imposed on revolutionary actions and of which the speech we are commenting on is a vivid example. The Navy commander-in-chief's Thursday statement was possible after 44 months of military government, but no spokesman for the military would have dared to make one like it 3 days after the 24 March 1976. At that time an official statement had to focus on another kind of thinking.

At any event, this speech confirmed the notion that the process of development is resistant to acceptance of the fact that the efforts of the government remain limited to a task of setting things in order. It seeks to assert that a change has come about through the definitive supersession of the preexisting period by the military's return to power. It is on this point that Admiral Lambruschini's statement appeared to be directed as much as or more toward public opinion or political leaders than toward the government itself. Obviously, direct opposition could hardly be leveled at observations of the following kind: We must "attack the basic problems themselves and with all intensity." Who is going to attack these problems if not those who are in power? Perhaps those who live on the llanos?

On the other hand, in having ventured the opinion that the political program could have neither a sound basis nor a certain measure of stability without a multilateral dialogue, the speaker leads us to conclude that this other statement was directed toward many different listeners: "But let us not fool ourselves. The best of the systems or procedures for governing

that we or the top-rated experts may propose will in fact fail if the people who have to deal with this task cannot cope with the situation or are not imbued with the ideals of common action." This is in fact a premonition that should be taken note of on both sides of the conference table to open the way to discussion.

Channels for a Dialog

What Admiral Lambruschini did not manage to specify was how a policy of dialogue would be channeled. But it could only have been difficult for him to do so because this has not yet been specified and who knows if it is to be specified in the exact sense the Navy considers to be proper: that those invited to speak and to listen do so before an ad hoc military commission, a sort of appendix of the military junta, and therefore a formal representative of the political opinion of the Armed Forces.

The Navy's position is quite clear on the following point: Those who converse only with a minister should always ask themselves whether his opinion reflects the opinion of the Armed Forces as a whole on all and each of the issues. And this will direct people's attention in different directions and encourage them to seek multiple channels of communication. Furthermore, a minister as such is dependent on the president, whose term of office expires in March 1981.

The Navy's position, that the president will be the executor of the program that is finally approved of, is not in question, but will this president or the one who succeeds him accept the fact that the politico-military conversations, on which some measures to be adopted in carrying out the program depend, are to be removed from his jurisdiction? This is much more than just a theoretical problem. It poses a delicate question of practical policy that is certainly providing equal cause for reflection as to President Videla and Army leaders, whose interests in the presidency are still more specific than those they have in the other two branches, as confirmed by their deeds and tendencies.

Outside of Extremes

Meanwhile, Admiral Lambruschini's plea pursuded several positions worth stressing. The speaker simultaneously raised the banners of economic freedom and social cooperation to assure people that the Navy is seeking to maintain the proper distance between two extremes: to use his own words, the extremes of collectivism and capitalist materialism. This last-named expression is not one frequently used by all the spokesmen for the economic team and, in some cases, it is considered ambiguous. Thus in terms of practical policy, mention of the term could come to play the role of a value taken for granted in emphasizing factional differences.

For the second time in a short period of time, Admiral Lambruschini said that the political parties play an irreplaceable role in their function of channels of representation. But he said that rejuvenation of our political

system is indispensable and warned that "it ought not to be unthinkable that in the end we should agree to incorporating or modernizing such and such an institution." Through constitutional reform? The speaker left things at that without offering any other opinions.

A few days ago General Sigwald, the governor of Cordoba, praised the 1853-1860 Constitution and suggested the inadvisability of meddling with it. From the left, the chairman of the Intransigent Party, Dr Alende, went so far as to say: "The country's political purpose is written into the 1853 Constitution, which is the only document that retains the consnesus of all Argentines."

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ALFONSIN SAYS HE LACKS CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Nov 79 p 10

[Text] Mar del Plata—"For us the unions are essential instruments in the social progress of a nation," says Radical leader, Dr Raul Alfonsin.

He maintained that for this reason "from the beginning economic policy had to cut off any threat of protest and put the workers in a position in which they could not defend themselves," and that in order to perpetuate this policy there had to be a law that would atomize union organization through a proliferation of unions, the nonexistence of third-echelon organizations and the limited and restricted existence of second-echelon ones.

"This," he said, "is a bill that has been debated behind closed doors, thus relegating to the fringe of public opinion not only the debate over a law of such importance to the political and social future of the republic but just plain information about the bill, incidentally denying the very organization that represents the workers the opportunity of letting itself be heard."

Dr Alfonsin also said that the exclusion of the people in Argentina is furthermore substantiated in the field of education where it transgresses against the public schools.

Checks and Bans

He explained that the exclusion of the people is politically realized through checks, bans and even dissolutions for the purpose of preventing the people from participating in public affairs. Economically, it is effective because in terms of improbable extremes it promotes a transfer of income from the most populous segments of the population to a few privileged sectors of the economy, prefe ably the financial sector. "To achieve this, it is indispensable to contain popular demands through suppression of social rights and distortion of union activity."

Asked for his opinion on the economic policy, Dr Alfonsin said that "there is neither foreign capital nor efficiency nor price stability; rather instead, deterioration of the domestic market, concentration of income,

slackening of production capacity, a world record for inflation and influx of speculative capital."

Lack of Confidence

On the government's political plans, he maintained that "we are deserving of no confidence. In light of what can be observed in the unions, we must get our feet wet. There is talk of a national assembly but they are not going to decide to let the political parties participate."

And lastly, he denied that there was any significance attached to certain doubts expressed by Radical sectors and maintained that the government could give full and certain proof of its determination to find the path to democracy if it would only stop promoting these doubts, "because this sort of statement usually reaches the editor's desk with a calling card from some member of the military on the staff of the Presidential Office Press and Broadcasting Secretariat."

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BALBIN CALLS FOR REORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Nov 79 p 14

[Text] San Salvador de Jujuy—Dr Ricardo Balbin doubts that the labor-union law will go into effect: "Whether it goes into effect depends on how it will be regulated and it has been announced that this will be prescribed within the next few months. I think that this will provide a reason for debate," the chairman of the Radical Party maintained at a press conference.

He added that the goal is a democratic federation of labor unions. "What we do not want — and we have criticized this before — is a partisan CGT [General Labor Confederation], which differs greatly from a CGT that is politically involved. I heard part of the president's speech and it seems to me there will be no extra-union politics, but there will be internal union politics. A divided union movement is at the mercy and caprice of enterprise. We want a unified union movement, with smoothly functioning procedures, such that its first, second and third echelon organizations can function perfectly."

Subversion

Balbin demanded a law governing reorganization of the political parties "because without it," he said, "we enter the domain of imbalance of international trade. What is fundamental here is institutional organization and, to achieve this, it is indispensable that we organize the political parties," adding that "it is not a matter of announcing the introduction of laws, rather of knowing to what extent these laws will resolve Argentine problems.

"We are the defenders of [just] sentencing," he said, when asked about subversion, and added: "Subversion and violence are repugnant to our convictions. I do not know whether the subversion has come to an end, but these deeds cannot be allowed to make us miss out on the institutional organization of the republic. The civilian population was aware of the subversion. It did not participate in it. It isolated it and it could be rooted out."

The Beagle

Balbin said that when the decision on the Beagle was annulled, the nation did not look the president in the face. "The entire civilian population supported the government's declaration and spontaneously mobilized in the service of the nation," he emphasized. Then he said that during the past 3 years "not a single stone was thrown; on the contrary, we have been clearing the road of stones." And right after that he wondered: "Now why do we not open the way to a broad, indispensable and necessary poll to find out what the nation thinks? Then the president and his team will not have an election result. They will have put their fingers on the pulse of the country's trend of thought, without which they can make mistakes..."

Finally, asked about the social work law, the Radical Party chairman said that "there was a loss of self-control in the handling of the matter and that what had to be corrected was the errors that were committed. The social services and the organization were mixed up in a distorting process."

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GOVERNOR OPPOSES ONE-PARTY ADMINISTRATION

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 21 Nov 79 p 20

[Text] Cordoba—"I am an enemy of our single party. I am an enemy of the official party. I am convinced that the kind of democracy we are looking for is a pluralist democracy, not a democracy that cannot be called one, like the one we had attained before March 1976 and even years before then, in which anyone with a few pesos and a few friends set up a political party," said the provincial governor, Brig Gen (retired) Adolfo Sigwald, in the speech he delivered at an informal lunch that brought together the presidents of the province's 27 intercommunal enterprises.

After referring to the way in which the governors ought to integrate themselves into the process of national reorganization, General Sigwald said that "the kind of democracy we are trying to achieve is a constitutional democracy. With strong political parties representative of the people. Anything else is not democracy; it is merely an imitation of democracy in which, as a result, the aspirations of the people are not materialized in the institutions the Constitution has given us, which are the houses in which the people are represented through their senators and deputies, as set forth in the Constitution, and by virtue of which the president governs by means of the power vested in him by the people, intelligently led by the political parties so that they can vote for the best candidates, not those who know how to talk best, not those who promise more demagogy, but those who are the best. This is the kind of democracy we want to achieve."

Later on the governor added that "here we are not trying to set up a king or a dictator. We are trying to introduce those institutions that characterize the Constitution. A constitution that is too well thought out for us to be so irreverent as to say: We will have to revise it today. It is very well thought out, has been in effect for more than 125 years and the republic has evolved under this Constitution. And it has evolved with political distortions, not because of imperfections in the Constitution, but because the men who have served it have been imperfect and thought more of themselves than of the institutions they should have served."

General Sigwald also expressed the wish that the governors "would continue to do their job with the same enthusiasm they are now applying in the

conviction that we are doing this for the Argentina our children will be governing, the youth that is preparing itself to take the oath and carry on, but with objectives of greatness, not petty ones as has happened in many periods during the course of political development which Argentina has followed, especially in the century we are now living in."

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COURT ORDERS ACQUITTAL OF POLITICAL LEADERS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Nov 79 p 6

[Text] San Luis (NA)—Court sources report that federal judge Dr Eduardo Francisco Allende has ordered the acquittal of Dr Belgrano Rawson and a group of leaders of the Provincial People's Movement who were on trial for having been presumably responsible for crimes covered by Law 21.323, which bans political activities.

In justification of his acquittal of the accused, the judge claimed "that for such behavior to constitute a violation of the law, the law requires that meetings organized by or participated in by persons actively involved in the crime be political party meetings, and furthermore be explicityly designated as such," suppositions which, in Dr Allende's opinion, did not figure in the proceedings.

Belgrano Rawson, former undersecretary of interior during the Alejandro Agustin Lanusse presidency, was arrested along with some 30 of his fellow party members as they were meeting at a law school in downtown San Luis, exchanging information on topics of current national and provincial interest on the night of 17 May of this year.

Members of the provincial police, who were carrying out orders issued them by the governor, Brig Gen (retired) Hugo Raul Marcilese, were responsible for this spectacular action.

The leaders of the Provincial People's Movement, an organization headed by Belgrano Rawson, were taken in a Black Maria to the division infantry barracks, where they were held incommunicado for almost 48 hours. As soon as they could, the federal authorities who intervened in the case released those who were being held after receiving statements from them made during interrogation, without prejudice to the prosecution of the case.

Study Center

Political leaders, businessmen and professional people, in addition to those who are assumed to be members of the public opinion movement headed by former Navy commander-in-chief, Adm (retired) Eduardo Emilio Massera, have

set up the Center for National Assertions Studies for the purpose of encouraging investigations on the economic, social and political realities of the province of San Luis.

The specific purpose of the organization is to promote national development and integration through development of basic industries, mining, tourism and a fluid system of roads and means of transport and communications.

The center also plans to invite the most qualified exponents of Argentine thinking to attend its forums to exchange points of view and reach agreement in finding solutions to Argentine problems.

Eduardo Luis Estrada Dubor will preside over the new institution and Jose Ramon Ceratto, Pedro Emilio Navarro, Francisco Jose Ramirez, Marcelo Estrada, Humberto Luis Gargiulo, Roberto Godoy and Roberto Montenegro Guillet will hold the secretarial posts.

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PPC TO HOLD NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MARCH 1980

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 25 Nov 79 p 17

[Text] The National Committee of the Christian People's Party (PPC) has resolved "to endorse the policy of autonomy and firmness which has been characteristic of the party's position with regard to the regime in power in this country," to hold a national convention, a maximal party organization, in March 1980 and to propose at a session of the Christian Democratic Federation a joint meeting of the national conventions of the parties it is composed of (PPC and PRC [Christian Revolutionary Party]) for the purpose of deciding on the ultimate unity of the Christian democratic movement through the Christian Democratic Party.

It furthermore voiced its agreement with Dr Enrique de Vedia's assumption of the acting chairmanship of the Christian Democratic Federation and appointed him alternate chairman of the PPC at a session of that federation and Dr Di Liscia vice chairman of the PPC in order to fill the Christian Democratic Federation Executive Committee. It also resolved to decide on intervention in the federal capital district, appointing Dr Frugoni Rey as interventor. It adopted a similar measure in connection with the Youth Department, appointing Juan Luis Losurdo as national interventor.

The meeting was chaired by party chairman Dr de Vedia and was attended by vice chairman Dr Di Liscia, Secretary General Nestor Vicente and Antonio Bosch, Guillermo Frugoni Rey, Salvador Ranzoni, Ruben Guerra and Julio Bello.

FIP (People's Left Front)

The FIP examined the national situation at a meeting of leaders from all over the country, held in Cordoba on 17-18 November and attended by all provincial committee chairmen and another 128 representatives.

At the close of the proceedings, chaired by party chairman Jorge Abelardo Ramos, a statement was issued indicating that the new labor-union law, the opening of the economy, the university administration, terrorism and the political plan were discussed.

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NEW ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF INSTALLED, ADDRESSES TROOPS

PY281508 [Editorial report] Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish at 1250 GMT on 28 December begins carrying live the take-over ceremony of the new army commander in chief from the parade ground of Patricios Regiment in Buenos Aires. The ceremony is attended by Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla, outgoing army commander in chief, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, incoming Commander Maj Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri and a number of high-ranking military officers.

Gen Viola reviews troops and hands his farewell speech to an aide de camp to read. In his message Viola says that he took over the army with no other commitments than those imposed by law and regulations and that the army was intent on defeating subversion, fully committed to its glorious past and ready to defend the sovereignty of the country.

He states that he is now handing over the army as intact as he had received it, steadily moving to attain objectives in line with the nation's promising future. He warns that the times to come will not be easy, reaffirms the role of the army in the process of democratization and stresses the values which the army provides for the attainment of this objective.

He indicates his belief is that this objective will be attained in the near future, reasserting that there is no turning back on the road which has been chosen.

He concludes by acknowledging the performance of all units of the army and the border police, expressing satisfaction at having served with them.

At the end of the message an aide de camp reads the presidential decree appointing Maj Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri as the new commander in chief.

Viola formally calls on all troops to respect the new commander in chief who then proceeds to make a speech.

General Galtieri states that he receives the army truly intact and invigorated materially and especially spiritually. After delving into the past of

the Argentine Army, Galtieri stresses the role of the new Argentine Army which has had to cope with the years of social collapse in Argentina during which "the bayonets of my army shed the blood of our enemies," and emphasized that the army emerged from this struggle with "its uniform, my uniform, honored by their blood."

He says that the dark decade of the seventies is now behind, a decade which jeopardized the future of the nation, and now the nation and the army face a new decade full of challenges. He says, however, that the nation must think in terms of providing a future for children and grandchildren and the present generation as well. He says: "We Argentines do not want a nation, we want a great nation, we do not want a country, we want a great country."

General Galtieri states that obsolete structures and useless strife must be forgotten and freedom of action must be restored for the good of the entire community, and that by the end of the eighties Argentina must be an example to the entire world.

He stresses that the army, the navy and the air force firmly believe that "the success of the process of national reorganization is the proper means for the country to achieve its future of greatness through a political solution which will allow the installation of a democracy which will assure future institutional stability."

General Galtieri says that the army's relations with the air force and the navy will be one of his main concerns for unity and cohesion are fundamental factors within the process and its guarantee for success. He also states that he will continue the army's policy of strengthening ties with the other armies of the American continent.

After emphasizing that he will make untiring efforts to further enhance unity, discipline and cohesion within the army, General Galtieri calls upon "all civilians, the basic source of the strength of the army, to achieve, with the help of God, Argentina's desire to peacefully build a great nation."

The new army commander concludes by calling upon the army to show discipline and courage.

The aid de camp of the army commander in chief reads a decree promoting Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri to the rank of lieutenant general. Once the decree is read, the units present at the ceremony begin a parade to commemorate the occasion.

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BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON NEW ARMY COMMANDER IS PUBLISHED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 5 Dec 79 pp 1, 6

[Text] The most salient features of the political philosophy of the new army commander in chief, Maj Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, as evidenced by his statements on various occasions, are a manifest desire for dialog and decided support for a convergence between civilians and the military as the most appropriate way to gradually achieve a stable democracy.

In June of this year, during an inspection tour of units in the interior, he stated that "it is not a question of getting the ballot boxes ready by tomorrow; it is a question of gradually increasing the participation of civilian sectors in the government." In discussing the convergence, he recalled that it had been born on 25 May 1810; "perhaps," he went on to say, "we have to crystallize and underscore these convergences and this national unity among all sectors.' On another occasion, in speaking before rural leaders, he emphasized that the Armed Forces have to exchange ideas with the humble people who till the soil every day throughout the length and breadth of our country."

During a ceremony in Corrientes in November 1974, in the presence of Peronist Governor J. Romero and other authorities, the then commander of the Seventh Infantry Brigade mentioned a serious disease that our country was suffering from. He said that "all of us want to cure it with medicines, but in the event that national authorities so ordain, the Armed Forces will act, and in that event, no one ought to have any doubt that all of the disease will be exterminated, and in order to exterminate all of the disease, they will have to exterminate all of its cells, even the ones about which there are doubts."

Military Career

Born in the Buenos Aires town of Caseros on 15 July 1926, General Galtieri entered the Military College of the Nation on 1 February 1943, graduating in December 1945 as a sub-lieutenant in the engineering branch. His first post was at the Engineers School in Concepcion,

Uruguay. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1947 and 2 years later to first lieutenant. In 1957, at the rank of major, he earned the title of staff officer and was appointed a tenured professor at the Superior War College. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in December 1962 and to colonel in December 1967. On 1 December 1972 he was named commander of the Ninth Infantry Brigade and promoted to the rank of general on the 31st of that month. Between then and late 1976, when he was promoted to major general, he held posts as: fourth chief of logistics and finances of the General Staff; commander of the Seventh Infantry Brigade; second commander and chief of staff of the Second Army Corps; third chief (operations) of the General Staff and second chief of the General Staff. In 1976 he held the post of commander of the Second Army Corps, and early this year he moved on to his current post, commander of the First Army Corps. General Galtieri has taken courses in the United States and received the following decorations: the Peruvian Cross for Military Merit, the Cross of the Venezuelan Ground Forces and the Order of Military Merit of the Republic of Paraguay. He is married to Lucia Noemi Gentil and has three children.

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'LA PRENSA' COMMENTS ON UNCERTAINTIES OF SPAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Dec 79 p 12

[Editorial: "Spain's Odd Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's visit to Madrid can help us to recapitulate the major landmarks in Spanish foreign policy in 1979, which was decidedly odd, contradictory at times, "Third World-oriented" at others and always apparently conditioned by the swings in domestic politics. Thus for example, the Madrid government sent an "observer" to the meeting of the nonalined countries in Havana, at a time when its military cooperation pact with the United States is still in effect. It received the PLO's [Palestine Liberation Organization] Yassir Arafat as a chief of state while continuing to promise that it would establish relations with Israel. It humored the countries of the Third World and the Latin American left with statements about "human rights" at a time when all of Spain was being jolted by the terrorist acts that are being supported by countries that belong to that grouping. The Spanish Government's policy towards the war in the Sahara is no less remarkable, inasmuch as with its latest turn it is very similar to the one that Moscow is pursuing in that region. Lastly, as we will see, Madrid seems to be listening more to the Kremlin than to Western foreign ministries when it underscores its reluctance to join NATO, thus adopting a neutrality that Mr Gromyko has clearly wished to back and perhaps even reward. Now all that remains is for Fidel Castro to visit Madrid this year or next (it would mean the same).

The Soviet foreign minister's presence in Spain is unquestionably a major European, and perhaps international, event. He is the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit the peninsula since the Spanish Civil War more than 40 years ago. Gromyko has certainly not traveled from one end of Europe to the other to propose toasts and deliver protocol speeches. He is in Madrid because they have invited him, because they have given him reason to be. He has been operating there on terrain that was prepared beforehand by his fellow Communist, Mr Santiago Carrillo, and even by the chief of state

himself, Mr Adolfo Suarez, who both agree, backed by Socialist leader Felipe Gonzalez, to keep Spain neutral, under the pretext of not leaning towards either of the major world blocs, in other words NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Paradoxically, Mr Suarez and his occasional allies in this issue, the Socialists and Communists, have the backing of ranking army commanders and a good segment of the mass media, which have been infiltrated (the "capitalist and "bourgeois" ones, that is) by Soviet agents and "fellow travelers." All of this shows that post-Franco Spain is pursuing the same foreign policy as in Franco's era, but with one difference, because whereas NATO rejected Spain's entry in the past, it is now, in contrast, calling for it. As we can see, Mr Suarez, not so his foreign relations minister, is not showing the slightest inclination to join.

As far as explanations go, which are never in short supply, it seems obvious that Mr Suarez is attempting a policy marked by reluctance and grudging acceptance in order to gain the sympathy of the Third World and a segment of Latin American public opinion and, of course, Moscow's blessing. His allies in this affair essay the argument that Spain must remain outside the "atomic race" and not join NATO at a time when with its eyes open and keeping up with what is happening with the Armed Forces of the countries behind the iron curtain, NATO is preparing to enhance its defense mechanisms by incorporating new and more powerful missiles, among other weapons. Mr Suarez's approach with regard to the Soviet Union has gotten to the extreme that EL PAIS of Madrid, a paper that does not deviate at all from his political line, published, no doubt with his approval, an article signed by the editor of PRAVDA stating that "it would be displeasing to the Soviet Union if Spain were to join NATO." This had never occurred before, nor did anyone ever suspect that it could.

What is Mr Suarez after? It is hard to tell. A promise to return Gibraltar? A significant role in major world affairs that would place him on the same lofty level as other chiefs of state? Is he trying to restore Spain's advisory function on the Latin American scene? Perhaps he is seeking to play a dominant role in northwest Africa?

All of this would seem excessive, a search for senseless notoriety at a time when Spain must consolidate its difficult and at times vacillating democratic experiment, strengthen national unity, do away with terrorism and seek domestic harmony within the framework of a greater harmony in the Western World.

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REPORTAGE ON OIL-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Arab Investment Forum

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 4 Dec 79 p 14

[Text] At the opening of the Forum of Arab Investors in Argentina, the secretary of industrial development, Pablo Benedit, emphasized yesterday that the Arab World as an oil producer and Argentina as a foodstuffs producer have the potential "to complement each other," also suggesting the appropriateness of a food distribution center on the Persian Gulf.

The opening ceremony of the forum was held in the assembly room of the stock exchange and was presided over by Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, who, according to prior announcements, was going to deliver a major address, which was canceled at the last minute without an official explanation.

Representatives of five of the world's major oil exporting nations arrived in the country to take part in the forum and they expressed their interest in promoting a capital partnership system with Argentine businessmen.

The delegation, consisting of almost 20 businessmen, represents Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Arab Emirates and is led by Abdalla Abdel Wahab, the delegate to UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization] in the Persian Gulf area.

Benedit pointed out in his speech that it was possible "to intensify the facets in which our countries can complement each other" and that "businessmen ought to think about setting up a distribution center for our foodstuffs on the Persian Gulf" inasmuch as "we are in a position to cooperate with your nations on the basis of Argentina's agroindustrial structure, which is sufficiently developed today and highly competitive internationally."

Speaking at the ceremony in addition to Benedit were the president of the Argentine-Arab Foundation, Saad Chedid, and UNIDO's Kuwaiti adviser, Abdel Wahab.

After welcoming the guests, Chedid pointed out that "Argentina needs the Arab World, and the Arab World needs Argentina" and that at these meetings it was necessary "to shape a clear-cut and in-depth dialog and to develop mutual trust."

For his part, Wahab stressed potential cooperation between the parties in the field of agroindustries, recalled the two previous forums in Mar del Plata and Madrid and highlighted UNIDO participation in similar meetings among countries from all parts of the world.

With regard to future investments, the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Abu Dhabi (one of the Arab Emirates), Skeid Saaed Bin Ahmed Al-Otaiba, confirmed that after taking part in the forum, the delegation would visit a number of provinces that have expressed an interest in encouraging incoming capital.

For his part, Fesal Al-Mazidi, a leading Kuwaiti banker, said that there was a definite possibility that Persian Gulf countries would invest in non-traditional countries and that "Argentina is first on the list."

He added that it was possible "to convince" his country's government to invest in Argentine Republic treasury bonds, which would be "the simplest way to invest; unfortunately, however, with the very high inflation that Argentina has, the Argentine Government would have to come up with a means to guarantee investors a certain degree of stability."

"The other way to invest," he underscored, "would be joint ventures, which could attract investors in farming and livestock, but these are much longer-range efforts and require patience from both Arabs and Argentines."

The president of the delegation, Abdalla Abdel Wahab, said in turn that "the Emirates regard Argentina as a very important source of foodstuffs in the world, and we believe that we could cooperate with major economic support."

Oil Development Financing

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 4 Dec 79 pp 16, 17

[Text] Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz last night announced a program to transfer $200 million in oil drilling activities

to the private sector in order to "speed up the process of Argentine self-sufficiency."

At a press conference at which he was accompanied by the top officers of the Bank of the Argentine Nation, the YPF [Government Oil Deposits] and five oil companies operating in the country, the minister explained that this was the startup of "a financing system based on the oil that is obtained and consisting of credit lines granted by the Bank of the Nation (which has a portfolio of 300 billion pesos for this purpose), which will be paid off with the petroleum that the beneficiaries extract for the YPF."

According to Martinez de Hoz, this arrangement will be implemented to encourage private enterprise to drill new wells in recognized areas. In this regard, he indicated that "the best way to defend our sovereignty is to extract the petroleum from the ground and put it to work in our production system. Thus, we feel that 900 wells will be drilled in 1980."

Martinez de Hoz described the financing arrangement that has been adopted as "different as regards exploration and development."

Toward the close of the conference Martinez de Hoz indicated that "we have announced that the goal of self-sufficiency would be reached in 1982, and we are holding to that date as of now, but it could change, depending on the pace of production."

For his part, Carlos Benaglia, the vice president of YPF, stated that "back in 1977 our enterprise implemented a policy of having the private sector drill wells under the system of extracted oil, and we have seen that it is an excellent arrangement."

"It is for this reason," Benaglia went on to explain, "that the decision was now made to appreciably expand the system to investments of 300 billion pesos (some $200 million) in 1980, so that the YPF can channel its efforts towards the exploration and expansion of known reserves."

The head of the Bank of the Nation, Juan Ocampo, stressed that this was the first time that the bank was involved in the petroleum sphere and that the financing arrangement would consist of "variable interest rate loans, depending on market developments, which would be repayable through the extraction vouchers that the YPF will furnish. In general, a term of up to 3 years has been set, although they will be repaid in an average of some 18 months."

The meeting at the Padilla Room in the ministry was also attended by representatives of the private firms that will be the beneficiaries of the system announced yesterday. They are: Bridas, Perez Companc, Astra, Quitralco and Tecnicagua, one of whose directors indicated at the close of the ceremony that this "program is advantageous to all parties."

Offshore Development Study

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 27 Nov 79 p 15

[Text] The delegations of Argentine businessmen and visiting European businessmen yesterday began their work sessions to analyze the exploration and development possibilities off Argentina's coasts.

The foreign delegation is made up of representatives from several European firms, mainly from Great Britain, which have formed a group called The Offshore Center.

The opening ceremony of the sessions was held at the Secretariat of Industrial Development. Speaking at it was the under-secretary of foreign investment, Federico Dumas, who described in detail, illustrating his talk with slides, the current economic situation in Argentina, focusing mainly on legislation-related problems in foreign investment and potential oil development areas in the country.

During the sessions, which will last until the 30th of this month, the European delegation will be discussing topics of interest with Argentine representatives who are specialists in energy, fuels, mining, petroleum, our country's experience in offshore development, gas, coastal engineering and industrial structure.

Most of the visitors are from oil companies, although there are also delegates from metallurgical firms and shipyards. When one of the businessmen was questioned as to the purpose of the visit, he pointed out that "we have come to offer the offshore technology used in our countries in order to try and develop petroleum sources in Argentina." He mentioned that he was part of the delegation from Sweden.

The extensive agenda of the Argentine and European delegations is aimed at the foreign firms developing an accurate idea of the actual potential that our country offers for the exploration and development of oil basins.

To this end, the visitors will be able to describe their experiences in this field and thus decide whether it is advantageous to apply these methods in Argentina.

Italian Ambassador

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 79 p 16

[Text] Mendoza (NA)--The Italian ambassador to Argentina, Mr Uberto Bozzini, indicated here that trade between the two countries "will be substantially increased," announcing at the same time that Italy "will be contributing capital to study petroleum reserves in southern Argentina."

Bozzini pointed out that "trade between the two nations currently amounts to $1 billion," a sum that he termed "very important."

The Italian ambassador then disclosed that the figure would be substantially increased as a result of the meetings that Italian and Argentine businessmen and industrialists are now holding.

Bozzini recalled that Italian businessmen "have made major investments in energy in Argentina," disclosing that "capital will be provided in the future to study petroleum reserves in southern Argentina." Lastly, he revealed that "major Italian firms are preparing to take part in hydroelectric projects in Argentina."

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CSO: 3010

NOVEMBER COST OF LIVING ROSE 5.1 PERCENT

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 7 Dec 79 pp 1, 6

[Text] The general consumer price index (cost of living) rose 5.1 percent in November over the previous month, while wholesale prices were up 3.4 percent. Rounding out the information furnished yesterday by the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) is the change in the construction cost index, which climbed 3.9 percent.

Excluding red meat and its derivatives, the increases were 6.4 percent for consumer prices and 5.8 percent for wholesale prices.

Consumer Prices

With the November rise, the consumer price index for the first 11 months of the year increased 129.3 percent, and if we exclude red meat and derivatives, the index is up 125.5 percent for the same period.

The index from November 1978 to November of this year shows a climb of 150.1 percent, while the rate that does not include red meat and derivatives has recorded a 146 percent annual rise. The price of red meats and derivatives is up 178.1 percent.

The following is the breakdown for the consumer price increase last month: food and beverages, up 4.2 percent (excluding red meat and derivatives, which are up 6.8 percent); clothing, 6.8 percent; housing, fuel and electricity, 4.1 percent; home outfitting and operating costs, 6.2 percent; medical and health care, 7.2 percent; transportation and communication, 6.5 percent; recreation and education, 6.5 percent, and miscellaneous goods and services, 6.7 percent.

Wholesale Prices

With the latest 3.4 percent rise, the wholesale price index is up 123.2 percent for the first 11 months of the year, and if red meat and derivatives are excluded, the rise is 117.7 percent.

The annualized increase for November is 137.4 percent, while excluding the category of livestock and meat puts it at 133.1 percent.

The November increase includes a rise of 3.6 percent for farm products and of 3.3 percent for non-farm products. The indexes that do not consider livestock and meat prices rose 12.' and 4.8 percent, respectively.

The breakdown for farm product prices shows a 13.9 percent rise in those of vegetable origin, a drop of 4.3 percent in those of animal origin (excluding livestock, which had a 4.7 percent increase) and a 0.7 percent rise in the case of fish.

As far as non-farm products are concerned, the major increases were in the following categories: lumber, 9.1 percent; stones, glass and ceramics, 7.5 percent, and chemicals, 7.4 percent.

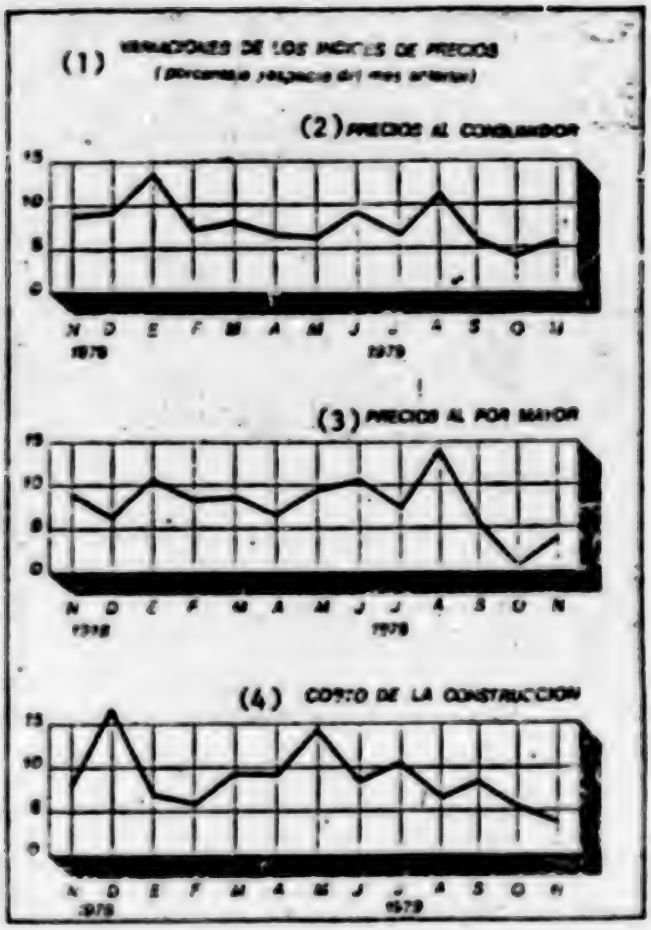
Among imported goods the major increases were in foods and beverages with 5.4 percent, and metals, excluding machinery, 4.9 percent.

Construction

The following is the breakdown for the November increases in the categories that make up the construction cost index: materials, 4 percent; labor, 4 percent; general costs, 3.3 percent.

Comparing the November 1979 figures with the November 1978 ones, we see that the general level of construction costs was up 175.3 percent.

The category of general costs recorded the above rise, it was clarified, because of increases in the pay of night watchmen, in construction water supply, in electricity hookups and in the cost impact of project management.



Key:

1. Month-to-month changes in price indexes (percents)
2. Consumer prices
3. Wholesale prices
4. Construction costs

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1980 DEFICIT PREDICTED AT THREE PERCENT OF GDP

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Dec 79 p 10

[Excerpts] The imbalance in fiscal accounts will be equivalent to three percent of the GDP in 1980, according to the estimates of the economy minister. Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz also pointed out that next year's budget bill could be sent to the Legislative Advisory Commission (CAL) in late December or early January.

The minister of the economy disclosed in Mar del Plata that the 1980 budget deficit "could be three percent of the gross domestic product."

Martinez de Hoz's announcement means that the original aim of limiting the treasury deficit to two percent of the GDP has been scrapped and also that the 1980 deficit will be larger than the 1979 deficit. As we know, the imbalance this year will be equivalent to 2.1 percent of the GDP, pursuant to the amendment that was introduced in the approved budget act.

Moreover, although the minister officially disclosed that the 1980 deficit "could amount to three percent" of the GDP, Martinez de Hoz is known to have instructed Finance Secretariat officials to make every possible effort to keep the figure "below three percent." In any case, a two percent deficit-GDP ratio has been ruled out.

In his statements to Mar del Plata newsmen the economy minister also announced that the 1980 Federal Budget Act would be sent to the Legislative Advisory Commission towards the end of December or in early January. If his forecast is borne out, the budget program would have legal approval in February.

The minister also cautioned that Military Manufactures (FM) would not escape the program of denationalizations that the Economy Ministry is carrying forward.

In this connection, he recalled that Aceros Holer, a company that operated within the sphere of FM, "was closed down because it was regarded as unprofitable."

When questioned as to whether the state might again adopt, even if just tentatively, the approach of setting wage adjustments for the private sector, Martinez de Hoz ruled out such a possibility because, he said, "we are in a period of liberation." And he contended: "Real wages have risen between 10 and 12 percent from March 1976 to date. Statements to the contrary are at variance with the truth."

When questioned as to the reasons for the recent 20 percent hike in bus fares, Martinez de Hoz replied that the size of the increase was due "to the impact of oil prices."

After other remarks on the progress of the government's economic policy, the minister asserted that he did not have "any personal commitment in that regard" when asked whether he would continue heading up the Economy Ministry after President Videla's term is over. He said, in contrast: "I have pointed out that the economic program is the program of the Armed Forces, and therefore there is a continuity in its major outlines that guarantees its effectiveness."

With regard to predictions for next year, the economy minister maintained that from a budgetary standpoint, "the private sector could see the results of state efforts, both in the treasury deficit and in making the level of public investment commensurate with the country's ability to pay."

In connection with private activity, he asserted that "we are creating the conditions so that, along with maintaining an appropriate level of economic activity, we can gradually curb price increases, which will lead the economy to a general convergence and to a balance in its overseas accounts, and this will enable the economy to overcome these adjustment problems that we now have."

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CSO: 3010

FOREIGN INVESTORS SHOWING GREAT CONFIDENCE, SAYS MARTINEZ DE HOZ

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Dec 79 p 7

[Text] Economy Minister Dr Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz asserted on a radio program that both prices and the inflation rate are declining, and he also confirmed the guidelines of the open-door policy designed to stimulate all imports that could modernize our production apparatus.

During the program Dr Martinez de Hoz mentioned the establishment of the Volkswagen plant in Argentina; he noted that this indicates that there are people overseas who analyze things coldly and that when the time comes to make investments, they find that this is one of the best countries in the world to do so, all of which constitues a major show of trust.

He added that we Argentines must become aware of what we have but that this must not result in a sense of false security or self-satisfaction.

When asked about the possibility of an industrial recession next summer, he asserted that "I think that we Argentines are a bit obsessed. I was recently reading a report by an industrial group on the third quarter, and all of the figures in it were good, but what does the future hold in store for us?, it wondered. The future hinges on what we do today. If the state and businessmen and the whole private sector and the workers do things well today, we will prevent anything bad from happening, call it recession or anything else."

"But if we all continue to be obsessed with and to fear change, that which might come to pass, everybody takes a series of measures to overprotect himself, and such overprotection is always at the expense of others."

He was then asked about investments, and his reply was that they were being made every day, both here and abroad, and that the country is progressing much more than can be seen on the surface and than the papers indicate.

In this regard, he explained that in order to find out about how things are, you have to go and talk with the common people in each sector, and you will get a more optimistic impression from workers and businessmen.

After contending that young people have many opportunities for work today, he asserted that we have to use our sizable foreign exchange reserves in a highly profitable manner.

This is why we are stressing the policy of encouraging all imports that could modernize our production apparatus, bring in the latest technology and re-outfit and update our industries and farming, "so that we can really give the country a chance to not miss the bus again, as it did in 1946."

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CSO: 3010

NATIONAL GRAIN BOARD SETS WHEAT PRICES

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 8 Dec 79 p 6

[Text] The National Grain Board has set the reference price for hard, grade 2 baker's wheat at 24,400 (pesos), with the following reference prices for the remaining grades: grade 1 (13.5 percent protein), 25,876, with a 1 percent discount plus 5 percent; regular grade 1, 1 percent discount, 24,644; grade 2 (13.5 percent protein), 5 percent discount, 25,620; grade 3, 1.5 percent markdown, 24,034; grade 4, 3 percent markdown, 23,668, and grade 4, 6 percent markdown, 22,936.

These prices are effective as of the day after tomorrow, Monday the 10th.

Wheat and Rape Sales

Producers throughout the country will be able to negotiate wheat and rape sales under the provisions of Resolutions 20,887 and 20,928, with direct deliveries or through the National Grain Board.

Wheat can be delivered for drying only at the installations that have the driers mentioned in Communique 920 of the Public Relations Service of the National Grain Board. The manager of the elevator must be consulted in advance in all cases as to the availability of space and the time of merchandise delivery.

The price to be paid to the grower will be the reference point price minus the freight charges to the warehouse. Therefore, a person delivering merchandise to an installation located "on the way to the port" will have higher initial freight charges offset by a smaller discount for freight charges to the reference point. In other words, he would have similar total freight charges for deliveries to installations located anywhere between the farm and the reference point.

In addition, delivery to the board warehouse does not mean that the grower must sell to the board. Thus, he can choose to request a warehouse warrant and negotiate it later as best suits him, or he can sell immediately to the board.

BRIEFS

BITTEL ON PERONISM--Buenos Aires, 26 Dec (NA)--Deolindo Bittel, vice president of the Justicialist Party and former governor of the Chaco, stated that his political group will "follow Isabel Peron's guidelines" and that within Peronism "there will be no more arbitrary appointments because that method died with Peron. There is neither good Peronism nor bad Peronism, only one Peronism and within it, of course, there are no opposing sectors--but the same ideas are expressed in different ways." Bittel made these statements in a speech given at the "political labor center" in the city of Moron, 25 kilometers west of Buenos Aires, which about 200 people attended. [Text] [PY271525 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas 0041 GMT 27 Dec 79 PY]

WELFARE MINISTER TO SPAIN--Social Welfare Minister Jorge Alberto Praga left yesterday for Madrid in response to a special invitation extended by the Spanish Government. He was accompanied by Capt Luis Ugarte, social action secretary, and Rear Adm (Medical Corps) Manuel Iran Campo, public health secretary. In Madrid, the Argentine officials will sign reciprocal agreements regarding public health and notes on social action programs. [PY132248 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Dec 79 PY]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN--Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (NA)--It has been officially reported that the Spanish Government has agreed to the appointment of Adelino Jorge Washington Ferreyra as the Argentine ambassador to Spain. [PY132248 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 2141 GMT 12 Dec 79 PY]

COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR--Costa Rican Ambassador Julio Esquivel Valverde presented his credentials to Argentine President Jorge Videla today during a ceremony at Government House. [PY123348 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 79 PY]

NEW CULTURE SECRETARY--The Executive Branch has accepted the resignation of Culture Secretary Raul Crespo. He has been replaced by Julio Cesar Gancedo, who will be sworn in on Monday during a ceremony at Government House. [PY132248 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1449 GMT 13 Dec 79 PY]

VOLKSWAGEN DIRECTOR--Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA)--Horst Muenzner, director of the FRG enterprise Volkswagen, met with President Jorge Rafael Videla to explain the company's projects. Volkswagen, which has purchased Chrysler Fevre Argentina, plans to invest $100 million in a first stage to continue manufacturing the Dodge line and begin producing a "utilitarian" model bearing the trademark. [PY132248 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 1120 GMT 13 Dec 79 PY]

GRAIN EXPORTS--Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (NA)--The national grains board has reported that during the first 10 months of this year Argentina exported 16.4 million tons of grains and that 74 percent of it was exported to Brazil, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, the PRC and the USSR. [Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 1138 GMT 19 Dec 79 PY]

BRIGADE COMMANDER INSTALLED--Col Julio Cesar Ruiz was sworn in as new commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade by Gen Domingo Antonio Bussi, commander of the 3d Army Corps. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 20 Dec 79 PY]

FIGUEIREDO'S VISIT--A few minutes ago the General Press Directorate released a communique announcing that Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo will visit Argentina from 14 to 16 May 1980. This announcement was made simultaneously in Brazil and Argentina. Figueiredo is the first Brazilian president to visit Argentina in quite some time. [PY261822 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Dec 79 PY]

NEW COMMANDER--Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (TELAM)--Brig Gen Cristino Nicolaides has assumed the post of new commander of military institutes. [PY182133 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0230 GMT 18 Dec 79 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG--Buenos Aires, 18 Dec (AFP)--The Foreign Ministry has reported that the Government of Luxembourg has accepted the appointment of Jose Maria Alvarez de Toledo as the new Argentine ambassador to that country. [PY182133 Paris AFP in Spanish 1047 GMT 18 Dec 79 PY]

HAITIAN AMBASSADOR--President Jorge Rafael Videla received the credentials of the new Haitian ambassador, Moliere Duplan, at Government House today. [PY182133 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Dec 79 PY]

TRADE OFFICIAL TO IRAQ--Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM)--Alejandro M. Estrada, secretary for the international trade and economic negotiations, departed today for Iraq in response to an invitation extended to him by Iraqi Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali. [PY182133 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0055 GMT 15 Dec 79 PY]

NEW MORNING NEWSPAPER--Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA)--The first issue of LA HOJA, the eighth morning newspaper in circulation in this capital, appeared here today. [PY182133 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 1421 GMT 17 Dec 79 PY]

MOUNTAIN CAVALRY UNIT--Mendoza, 24 Dec (TELAM)--The new No 8 Mountain Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron has made its headquarters in the old national military garrison in San Rafael Department, 260 kilometers south of Mendoza. Maj Roberto Andres Beubihy is the commander of the new unit. [PY251910 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1110 GMT 24 Dec 79 PY]

GOVERNORS PONDER FUTURE--The interior minister last night met with the governor of San Juan, Brig Gen (retired) Angel Manuel Zamboni, to consider certain matters that are of concern to this province. Basically, questions relating to the privatization of the CAVIC [Wine Manufacturing and Sales Agricultural-Economic Corporation] were discussed. According to provincial sources, the governor has on several occasions said that the cellars would be turned over to the vintners, financially and economically free and clear. It is presumed that during last night's deliberations Brigadier General Zamboni's situation as head of the provincial government was also discussed. Representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the Central Bank and the wine enterprise's reorganization committee also participated. The day before, Div Gen Albano Harguindeguy discussed the situation of another governor from the Cuya area, the governor of Mendoza, Maj Gen (retired) Jorge Sixto Fernandez, whose removal from office has persistently been mentioned recently. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 21 Nov 79 p 32] 11466

MINERAL EXPLORATION--The nation's Mining Secretariat has awarded financing for an exploration project that a private company will be undertaking in a silver, lead, zinc, iron and manganese deposit located in the Department of Las Heras in Mendoza Province. The exploration work in the deposit called Paramillo de Uspallata will be handled by the firm Velke S.A. The financing that the Mining Secretariat is providing for the project comes from the Mining Development Fund and is repayable over a 10-year period. In the event that the exploration is unsuccessful, the state will assume 80 percent of the mining risk. In addition, the secretariat has approved various tax breaks for launching the program. Breaks of up to 100 percent of investments have been approved, to be used to purchase stock in the company. A 2-year deferment on the payment of the capital tax has also been granted, and the company has been exempted from the stamp tax for 2 years as well. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Dec 79 p 5] 8743

CSO: 3010

SHARP INCREASE IN GDP PREDICTED BY 1983

FL251235 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 79 p 1 FL

[Text] The gross domestic product (GDP) of Barbados is predicted to reach $1,140.4 million by 1983.

This is contained in the recently published Barbados development plan--1979-1983, and is based on an annual real growth rate of four per cent.

The plan states that this will represent an absolute $203.1 million increase in GDP, from the 1978 figure of $937.3 million.

The annual rate of growth, of GDP, it states, appears feasible in the light of the performance of the economy since 1976, especially in the manufacturing and tourism sectors--which will continue to be the main growth poles of the economy over the plan period.

The plan is the third to be published since Barbados gained independence in 1966, and is of four years duration April 1, 1979 to March 31, 1983.

The last developmental plan covered the 1973 to 1977 period, and the lapse of two years between the end of the second and beginning of the third plan has been attributed to the change in government in 1976, and the need of the new government to redefine the main features of development policy, re-organising planning machinery and upgrading statistical data.

Plan predictions show that the share of agriculture (including fisheries) in GDP at factor cost, will fall slightly from 9.7 per cent in 1978 to 9.5 per cent in 1983.

The share of government services and other services are also expected to decline over the period; from 16.1 per cent to 13.9 per cent, and 16.3 per cent to 15.6 per cent, respectively.

However, the share of manufacturing the tourism is expected to increase from 11.3 per cent to 11.6 per cent in 1978, to 13.5 per cent and 13.6 percent respectively in 1983.

The share of the sugar sector in GDP is predicted to decline very slightly, from 5.5 per cent to 5.4 per cent. This is based on the assumption that the production of sugar will average about 110,000 tonnes annually.

The attainment of this target assumes a reversal of the downward trend in area planted and a continuation of the green cane harvesting policy. It is envisaged that output from the sugar industry will grow at an average annual compounded rate of 3.5 per cent over the plan period.

Manufacturing is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 7.8 per cent, due to an anticipated improved export performance in manufactured goods and higher degree of import substitution.

There will thus be a boost given to promotion of export manufacturing industries to increase inflow of foreign exchange.

An annual five per cent projected rate of growth in the construction sector over the plan period will largely be due to the increased levels of gross fixed capital formation in both private and public sectors.

This capital formation is projected to increase from $224 million in 1978 to $287 million in 1983.

Tourism will almost equal manufacturing, growing at 7.4 per cent per annum over the period. Tourism receipts will increase to $332 million by 1983, from $250 million in 1978, or an increase of $82 million.

CSO: 3020

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INVESTMENT PLAN

FL251240 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 79 p 1 FL

[Text] The public investment programme of the Barbados development plan 1979-1983 consists of capital programmes and projects of government ministries, totalling an estimated BDS$562 million.

In addition, the Central Bank of Barbados will finance the construction of its new building at Cathedral Square Bridgetown, at an estimated cost of BDS$21 million, bringing total planned capital expenditure to $583 million.

Of the total, expenditure on the economic sectors is estimated at $193.94 million or 34.5 per cent of the total investment, with agriculture getting $69.83 million.

The allocation to agriculture is the largest in the plan, some 12.4 per cent of expenditure, and includes the relocation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation; construction of a central agronomic research laboratory; the Oistins and Speightstown fisheries developments, an integrated rural development project and an integrated Scotland development project.

Government activity in the tourism sector over the period of the plan centres on the $34 million Heywoods holiday village, and the completion of the $28 million new Grantley Adams International Airport in the first year of the plan.

Expenditure on housing is an estimated $46.15 million, or 8.2 per cent, with the National Housing Corporation being given $38 million, and $8.15 million being spent on a sites and services project.

A total of $96.16 million will be spent on the development of infrastructure; $16 million going to water resources; and $80 million to transport and communications, as well as $8.7 million for improving the public transport system.

Other infrastructural projects include the already started NW general post office, Spring Garden Road, Samuel Jakman Prescod Polytechnic access road and the St. Barnabas to Warrens Road ring road.

CSO: 3020

JANUARY-NOVEMBER TRADE DEFICIT AMOUNTS TO $2.6 BILLION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Dec 79 p 31

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--Brazil's trade deficit for the period January to November was approximately $2.6 billion with imports amounting to about $16.5 billion and exports $13.9 billion, according to a forecast made by CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] based on figures compiled for the first 4 weeks of November. The experts advised that the deficit in the trade balance came to $600 million, the imports and exports being $2.1 billion and $1.5 billion respectively.

The result of Brazil's trade with foreign countries from January to November makes it possible to predict a trade deficit of approximately $3.4 billion for 1979, since, according to the CACEX experts, imports will be about $18.9 billion and exports about $15.5 billion.

If those forecasts turn out to be correct, Brazil will have its third largest trade deficit this year since the quadrupling of oil prices in 1973, when there was a surplus of $7 million in the trade balance. In 1974 the deficit in the trade balance reached the impressive figure of $4.69 billion and, in 1975, the deficit dropped to $3.54 billion. Therefore, the deficit in the trade balance for 1979 would be somewhat less than that of 1975, reaching approximately $3.4 billion.

Meanwhile, this result would be rather unfavorable in comparison to 1976, 1977 and 1978 when Brazil had, respectively, a deficit of $2.25 billion, a surplus of $96.8 million and a deficit of $1.03 billion.

Biggest of the Year

CACEX experts believe that in December 1979 both imports and exports will be the highest for the current year. This is because imports should be about $2.4 billion, thus exceeding purchases made in November and October which were, respectively, $2.1 billion and $1.85 billion. According to the CACEX experts, this upsurge in imports is due principally to increases in Brazilian expenditures for oil which, in November, were already $700 million greater than those of October.

With regard to exports, the CACEX experts believe they will reach a little more than $1.6 billion in December compared to $1.5 billion in November and $1.4 billion in October.

Exports did not immediately reflect measures taken by the government, principally the 30 percent devaluation of the cruzeiro, because of a lack of industrialized products the major share of which were used at this time of the year to satisfy an increased demand in the domestic market. Moreover, according to those experts, the stock of agricultural products for exports is reduced. In the experts' opinion, this will prevent Brazil's obtaining a more favorable performance in the trade balance for the first quarter of 1980, resulting in a continuous monthly deficit of about $500 million. Meanwhile, beginning in April, the Brazilian trade balance is expected to be more favorable as a result of the sale of agricultural crops.

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NEW SUPPLIERS COVER POSSIBLE IRANIAN OIL CUTBACKS

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Dec 79 p 28

[Text] Brazil has already prepared a plan for replacing the 150,000 barrels of oil purchased daily from Iran in case this country suspends shipments to PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]. If this happens, oil already purchased or to be purchased from Venezuela, Mexico, Angola and China would be sufficient for the domestic supply.

PETROBRAS confirmed yesterday that National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is awaiting a Brazilian delegation in Tehran to negotiate the supply of oil in 1980 on a new basis. In the communication sent to PETROBRAS, the Iranians did not speak of the possibility of Brazil's ending up purchasing 20 percent of the oil on the free market.

Position

The Brazilian negotiators were not surprised at NIOC's convocation, since the contract with PETROBRAS ends on 31 December. In any case, new negotiations would be necessary. Moreover, Iran is the only supplier which maintains an attitude of uncertainty with regard to future exports. In no way would PETROBRAS want to lose the Iranian market and is willing to talk as long as any commitments made will not unduly infringe upon the country's financial capability.

The delicate point in current relations with Iran appears to be in a possible insinuation that Brazil would be buying on the spot market. According to unofficial information, the 20 percent mentioned in the international news would make negotiations rather difficult. In addition to burdening the country's balance of payments, PETROBRAS would be giving up a traditional position: that of dealing only with the contract market.

On the supposition that a new agreement is not reached and that Iran suspends its exports, Brazil will be able to make up the lack of 150,000 barrels.

In the first half of 1980 Angola will begin to furnish Brazil oil. A contract is already signed for 20,000 barrels per day, but that limit can be increased to 50,000. Mexico will also begin selling to Brazil with 30,000 barrels per day, while Venezuela will increase its current sales of 30,000 barrels per day to 50,000 and can even reach 100,000 barrels by the end of 1980. China, currently supplying 11,000 barrels, will increase its supply to 26,000 barrels per day. Thus, 90,000 barrels per day are guaranteed as an extremely conservative estimate and 170,000 barrels as an optimistic estimate.

8568
CSO: 3001

ROCKET EXPORTS MAY BE INITIATED IN MID-1980

IAE Develops Rockets

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Dec 79 p 16

[Text] Sao Paulo--By mid-1980 Brazil may be exporting its small and medium rockets developed at the Space Activities Institute [IAE] and manufactured by AVIBRAS [Brazilian Airways] as a part of the Brazilian aerospace program.

The German Goverment has contacted the IAE requesting an anticipated cost, delivery schedule and set of terms for the sale of 10 Sonda III scientific rockets 7 meters high; similar rockets have been quoted on the international market at prices ranging from $50,000 to $70,000.

Rockets manufactured in Brazil are small and medium and are capable of capturing a large share of the international market, possibly extending even to the United States which, together with Canada, is the largest supplier of this type of rocket in the international market. According to Col Abner Maciel de Castro, engineer, coordinator and principal developer of the Sonda II rocket (the first stage of the Sonda III), the more developed nations, who are leading in the space race, "have a great demand for medium and inexpensive rockets to use in scientific experiments and operational tests on equipment and instruments planned for larger vehicles."

Recent Industry

Brazil has been developing its aerospace industry for only a short time. Barreira do Inferno, the center for the launching of Brazilian rockets, was established in October 1964 and not put into operation until December of the following year. Within a period of 15 years, Brazilian experts had already launched more than 2,000 rockets into space, developed our own national space vehicles--in some instances, with more than 90 percent of national participation--and worked toward the development of an advanced technological project. In 1986 the IAE and the INPE (National Space Research Institute) expect to launch the first national satellite into space.

The VLS (Satellite Launching Device) to be used by the IAE for Brazilian satellite launching will be 16.59 meters long, will have three propelling stages and will launch a Brazilian satellite of 100 to 120 kilos into a circular orbit between 500 and 700 km from the earth's surface.

It will be a satellite with various possibilities of utilization, such as sensing, meteorology, soil analysis and the like.

The prospect of launching a communications satellite is not among the plans of the IAE experts, at least for the moment, although the launching of the VLS is the first step, and an essential one, in arriving at that type of satellite system.

Communications satellites are geostationary, that is, remain "stopped" at a certain point in space precisely following the earth's orbit so as to cover the same territorial range on a constant basis. They must be launched with great precision at an altitude of 36,000 km and at an inestimable cost, according to Colonel de Castro.

Joint Project

While not launching its own satellite, Brazil is acting as a partner in the launching of foreign satellites in order to obtain experience. Although the program is already behind schedule, at the beginning of the year, France is to get underway with its Ariane project, its first satellite launching, with a rocket 50 meters high to accompany the satellite orbit through tracking. The French installed some of the most modern equipment in Barreira do Inferno through an agreement with Brazil. According to the agreement, France will not pay the usual tracking rates for 2 years and, in compensation, Brazil will take possession of the equipment installed.

Colonel de Castro believes that the cost of the Brazilian satellite project, including the operation of the IAE, the INPE and Barreira do Inferno for a period of 10 years, will be about $600 million. The coordinator of the Sonda II project does not believe the cost will be very high for our country; nor does he believe that the energy crisis can harm the progress of the Brazilian space program.

"The development of a space program brings indirect benefits which are many times more important than the final objective. I know what Brazil stopped importing in the way of fuels and electronic instruments as a result of the development of our projects; it has already exceeded by far what the aerospace program spent up to now. I know that the substitution of the import of special steel alloys, which, moreover, are being exported, is saving our foreign currency reserves about $1 million per month, according to my information," Colonel Abner asserted.

Sonda IV

Toward the middle of 1982, the IAE hopes to launch the first rocket of the Sonda IV line, two-stage, moved by a "composite" solid propellent, and designed to carry loads up to 300 kilos at 1,000 km from the earth's surface.

Engineer Jaime Boscov, coordinator of the Sonda III and Sonda IV projects and designer of the VLS, believes that Brazil will take at least 6 to 10 years

to launch its satellite, although he recognizes that the projects underway are supplementary and can be speeded up. In Boscov's opinion, the greatest obstacle to a rapid advance of the aerospace program is also its greatest benefit: technological industrial development:

"Without an adequate industrial and human infrastructure, we shall do nothing. We feel that our national industrial set-up provides conditions for the development of more sophisticated rockets, and that is why we decided to build the Sonda III. Up to this point, with the construction of the Sonda line the development of a satellite project will act as a spur to industry and will have a tendency to improve our national industrial quality," he stated.

Rocket Launching Termed 'Perfect'

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Dec 79 p 9

[Text] Natal--IAE experts and Colonel de Castro, engineer and coordinator of the Olinda Operation, considered the launching of the two Brazilian rockets from Barreira do Inferno, which went beyond the earth's atmosphere, "perfect," despite serious defects which occurred during the test.

The performance of the Sonda II-A rocket motor, tried in Brazil for the first time day before yesterday, failed, but the telemetric instruments installed in the nose cone sent back complete information on the performance in flight. This information was compared with that sent back by the rocket successfully launched yesterday and, according to the experts, made it possible to detect the defects; these will be cleared up by the time of the next launchings, between July and August 1980.

In yesterday's test, the driving minirockets installed in the small wings of the Sonda II-A "Trombeta" offered excellent results. This equipment, which is a refinement of Brazilian space vehicles, cause the rocket to rotate; this, in turn, provides for great precision in the trajectory and in the drop point.

According to Colonel de Castro, although the data obtained in the two launchings did not confirm the certainty of the techniques used in Brazilian space vehicles, they did show that the project is developing favorably.

8568
CSO: 3001

PEOPLE MUST MAKE DECISIONS TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY

Santiago HOY in Spanish 5 Dec 79 p 8

[Commentary by Arturo Venegas Gutierrez: "Democracy and Authoritarianism"]

[Text] "I believe in democracy as a way of life, with an authoritarian government that will protect it."

In the above answer to an interview question, the dilemma of the present government has been captured.

Without even needing to refer to political science, let us look at the dictionary:

"Democracy: superiority of the people in the political government of the State."

"Authoritarianism: system based on the unconditional submission of the people to authority."

Never can there be, therefore, democracy if there is authoritarian government, unless we want to confuse democracy with anti-Marxism, in which case it would turn out that the Nazi regime was democratic....

For that reason the present government is seeking the impossible. Today there is simple authoritarianism, and for a distant tomorrow, the promise of a "democracy" not possible to fulfill as such.

It is generally said that by the above statement one denies the great advances that have been made in all areas. But the point is not that one tries to ignore the changes of recent years; the problem is the true meaning of these changes. And as recent deplorable events prove, if there has been a quantitative let up in repression, it is carried out by other means. It seems more likely that the pretended advances are only an intermission, perhaps determined by outside factors, but which does not basically influence the regime.

On the other hand, one cannot cite a single measure of effective opening toward democracy, and when it is stated that "democracy" is merely a "legal formality" and that it must be protected by the authorities, it is evident that among the remote goals that the government has fixed for itself, the restoration of power to the Chilean people is not considered.

Others assert that when economic freedom is fully established, conditions will exist for an effective democracy. History absolutely refutes them, because economic freedom as the economic community understands it, without any social framework to offset it and with the political body repressing the majority, not only makes it impossible to achieve liberty and democracy, but rather becomes the worst obstacle to these goals. In any free election, the economic organization--according to official polls themselves--winds up overwhelmingly defeated. As a result, the problem is precisely the opposite of what is expressed: to be able to maintain an economic freedom such as the present one, so that it will fit the principles of capitalism, the authoritarian political regime becomes a must.

Thus, no true democrat can accept the program of institutionalization that is being offered to us and that contains within it the basic and unavoidable contradiction just pointed out, which unfortunately locks the present government into the only path that it can follow and is following: legalizing authoritarianism.

For this reason, the only effective way of achieving democracy is to accept its basic premise: decisions belong solely to an organized people, and as long as this principle is not accepted, we will continue being locked into the present unsolvable pattern.

9945
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FORMER JUSTICE SCORES SUPREME COURT EXTRADITION DENIAL

Santiago MENSAJE in Spanish Dec 79 pp 775-776

[Letter to the Editor from Eugenio Velasco, Washington, D C]

[Text] Dear Editor: As a practicing attorney for more than 30 years and a member of the Supreme Court for 7 years, I was distressed by the decision which denied the extraditions requested by the United States. This is the umpteenth evidence of the lamentable role the highest court has played since 11 September 1973, during which time it has become a decisive cog in the functioning of the de facto regime installed at that time and a determining factor in the policy of repression that began in Chile on that day. The decision is logically inscribed in the process which has already been going on for 6 years: happy acceptance of all decree laws promulgated by the Military Junta, even those which violate or change the Constitution, the defense of which is the essential task of the Supreme Court; acceptance of decree law which is sadly famous for its antijuridical nature and of the feudal absolutism which has ordered that the Constitution be considered modified tacitly and retroactively each time a decree law has violated it since the day of the military coup; renunciation of its jurisdiction over wartime military tribunals, against the clear and express letter of the Constitution, thus leaving the way open to the greatest excesses; validation of all the acts of the dictatorship which have destroyed individual guarantees and human rights in the country though the "state of war," the "state of siege," and, to date, the "state of emergency," and which at the same stripped the Supreme Court of the tools contemplated in the Constitution for the protection of the life, liberty and physical and moral integrity of the citizens; silent acceptance of the outrages committed against the administration of justice, which are much more serious than those which motivated its just indignation during the administration of President Allende, such as the refusal of DINA [National Intelligence Department] to give the courts any information requested and of the Interior Ministry to free anyone imprisoned without a writ of habeas corpus; the refusal, for more than 5 years, to investigate the fate of persons who disappeared after being arrested, until the first bodies of the victims began to be uncovered at Lonquen. It was, then, perfectly natural to refuse extradition at this time and to declare the impunity of those who appear beyond all doubt to be implicated in another crime with evident political overtones.

Many are the observations suggested by the decision and the reasons which prove that, notwithstanding efforts to give it the appearance of correctness, it contains glaring errors which cannot be attributed to the incapability of the judges. It was the need to deny extradition at any price which pushed them into this. In order not to overextend myself, I shall discuss only two of these: (...)

In the first place, in the United States, as in any country in the world, there are regulations which prohibit and punish any type of coercion or pressure on the accused or on a witness. There are precepts identical to Article 323 and 460 of the Chilean Criminal Justice Code, contrary to what the Supreme Court believes, and in any case their application is more rigorous than in our country. But the so-called "plea bargain" or agreement between the government of the United States and an accused--as in Townley's case--is something very different. Its origin, its philosophy, its purposes and objectives, the parties which intervene, the requisites to be fulfilled--all, absolutely all, differ substantially. To explain this, certain elementary information is necessary: the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution consecrates an individual guarantee that is precious to the American people, and it states that no one is obliged to testify about a matter which might produce consequences which are prejudicial to him. It is, then, absolutely false that in the United States the accused is forced to testify under oath, as Minister Eyzaguirre avers. On the contrary, he enjoys true immunity, and no one may force him to make statements about his conduct, either with our without an oath. Invocation of the Fifth Amendment to avoid making statements is the "daily bread" of the administration of criminal justice in this great country. But this jealous defense of human dignity creates a very serious difficulty in the investigation and uncovering of many crimes. Often the refusal of suspects to testify--which is scrupulously respected--closes all avenues, and there is the evident risk that the crime will go unpunished. For more than two centures a long and slow process of historical evolution has been taking place and giving birth to the "plea bargain," an institution which tends to maintain that guarantee while opening up possibilities for investigation and punishment of criminal acts. (...)

It is clear that the system demands a high degree of honesty and responsibility in the judicial mechanism, but it works in the United States, although the Supreme Court suggests the contrary. Attorney General Barcella--one of those who participated in the trial of the Letelier and Moffitt murder case--best gave the lie to its surreptitious statements when he confirmed a rumor which has been circulating here in the last few days:

Captain Fernandez offered last March, through Federico Willoughby, to sign an agreement and tell the truth about the orders he received from Contreras and Espinoza in exchange for refusal to extradite him, but his proposal was rejected because Fernandez would not tell the entire truth about his participation, which would be distorted in his statement. Barcella stated categorically that an attorney general can never negotiate with the truth.

"Plea bargaining" is not exclusive to the United States. The system, which has broad advantages for society, is used in other Anglo-Saxon countries, and there is some intent to establish it even in countries which have different legal systems. Even in Chile, in certain crimes against the internal security of the state, some decree laws dictated by the Military Junta have introduced precepts which rest on plea-bargaining, but only roughly, without the measure of seriousness and efficacy which has been explained, and leading simply to total absolvement of the informer. This record makes even more incredible the confusion of the Supreme Court, which has preferred to see in such agreements some of the illegal acts mentioned in Articles 323 and 460 of the Criminal Justice Code. It is like confusing a kidnapping crime with a prison sentence, or a homicide with a legal execution. More than inexcusable, it is the use of a twisted and inadequate tool, for lack of a better one, to enforce the law.

(2) Analysis of the presumptions invoked as proof by the U S Government defense, as the decision does, makes obvious in addition the lack of freedom with which the tribunal itself works.

It begins by falling into a contradiction which suddenly comes into view and cannot be explained except by moral pressure. In its "whereas" paragraphs 13 and 17 a very elementary principle is established: where one of the "well-grounded presumptions" which determine who has jurisdiction over the accused--and, in this specific case, the source of the extradition requested--is concerned, it is not required that these "constitute full proof" or have the "character of complete proof," which is indispensable only for conviction. But number 17 simply states across the board that notwithstanding this, "it is evident that they must be based on real and proven facts, which must be many and serious, which must be precise and direct, and some of which must concur with others in such a manner that the facts are connected and all lead to the same conclusion, that the act in question took place." This statement contains each and every one of the requirements of Article 488 of the Criminal Justice Code for a presumption "to constitute complete proof of a fact." Where are we, then? First it states that all the requirements need not be fulfilled--which is obvious in a good criterion and can be read in any elementary manual of criminal trial law--, and then it maintains that they must be complied with, and it is this last regulation that is followed by the decision. (...)

As the decision itself points out, the task of judging a circumstance and deciding if it is simple suspicion, presumption or well-grounded presumption is definitely an appraisal which depends on the "human factor," which is always subjective. It also depends basically on the judge's state of mind, an element which is influenced by innumerable and often imperceptible details and which is basic to this subjectivity.

Any educated person--he doesn't need to be a lawyer--who has the great patience required to read the 165 pages, will immediately become aware of a problem of good or bad criterion and that the Court made its decision by

using the worst possible. When deciding whether a determined circumstance is suspicion or well-grounded presumption, it always opted for the first alternative. That probably would have been all right if they had been pronouncing a final sentence. Nobody can condemn without the conviction that he is responsible for the accused. Simple suspicions are not sufficient to condemn. But the Supreme Court forgot that it was not condemning the only deciding whether the three DINA agents should be brought to trial simply to clarify their participation, guilt or innocence. The most unlettered of readers will thus discover that in spite of so many suspicious precedents, and so many lies on the part of Contreras, Espinoza and Fernandez, it preferred to avoid a trial which would lead to a thorough criminal investigation to arrive at justice. It preferred, in other words, a quick acquittal.

If our judges were to follow the sad example of the Supreme Court, criminal trials in Chilean courts would be reduced by a high percentage, just as the number of delinquents running the streets would be increased by the lack of decision and awareness of our formerly worthy Chilean judicial system. Why doubt that the subjectivity of the trial was notoriously twisted by pressure?

Sincerely, Eugenio Velasco, Washington, D C

8735
CSO: 3010

PRESS SAID TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST BISHOPS

Santiago MENSAJE in Spanish . : 79 pp 783-785

[Article by Jose Arteaga Llona]

[Text] The big Chilean communications media--television channels, daily newspapers of major circulation, high-powered radio stations--are, almost without exception, controlled by the government or its supporters. This is an immense source of influence on Chileans and, therefore, of power. The information we have is transmitted by television, radios, newspapers or certain magazines which have the privilege of emphasizing one fact, soft-pedaling another, presenting some things in truncated form or putting certain aspects in relief. This situation of modern man, a delicate one in itself, becomes more serious when, in practice, one cannot select one's information medium, as occurs in our case with television.

The Catholic Church has again experienced, during September and October, this information management and the effects of not having any farreaching means of communication (except for Radio Chilena). Its bishops were the target of a clever campaign in which the government had no obvious hand. It began with an orchestrated reaction against the pastoral letter concerning the campesinos; later it was the tendentious presentation of John Paul II's remarks to the bishops and the corresponding silence concerning his later remarks; finally an attempt was made to revive the campaign to discredit Monsignor Carlos Camus because of his statements to MENSAJE.

The campaign concerning John Paul II's speech to the bishops on the occasion of their ad limina visit appears to us to be the most serious attempt of pro-government Catholic sectors to isolate and silence the bishops, making them appear to have been reproved by the Pope, while at the same time these sectors proclaim their own total fidelity to the Pope.

The Daily Press and the Speech

On 13 October, John Paul II closed the Chilean bishops' visit with a speech directed to the entire Episcopal Conference.[1] After expressing his pleasure at being able to address them and praising their pastoral plan, the Pope spoke to them about their role as evangelizers, about the need to promote the best training possible for a numerous Chilean clergy, about the unity of the church as a task of primary importance and about the bishops' efforts to further peace between Chile and Argentina.

On 14 October, LA TERCERA headlined "Pope Tells Chilean Bishops, 'Your Are Pastors and Not a Political Parliament,'" and it printed an AP cable which excerpted the speech, citing among others the paragraph, "You are neither a symposium of experts nor a political parliament, etc." EL MERCURIO's front page headline read: "His Holiness Speaks to Chilean Bishops" and followed this with a subhead containing the same sentence about the symposium of experts, reprinting the same AP cable and a telephone communication from Bishop Sergio Contreras in which he warned against a partial interpretation of the speech. Headlines and subheadlines--which are what are normally read by the average reader--were already setting the tone and direction of the campaign to come. Other newspapers took it upon themselves to create the atmosphere in a more direct and brutal manner, with headlines such as, for example: "Shepherd, to Your Sheep," and stating explicitly that the Pope had said, "No" to an alleged political attitude of the Chilean bishops.

The news had already been delivered in such a way that the reading public would get the impression that the Pope had called attention to the bishops. Few probably even read, much less read without prejudice, the complete speech which was published later by the same newspapers.[2] Again the Church had to come forth, with its scanty news media, to change a first impression that is difficult to erase.

In fact, the famous and oft-quoted paragraph is in the part of the speech referring to the bishops' role as evangelizers. The previous paragraph is an exhortation that the evangelical pronouncement should not remain theoretical, "but should, rather, lead to profound unity of faith and life in daily personal and social intercourse, both national and international," in which "the eternal word is applied to the concrete circumstances, (and) showing your own selves to be living witnesses of the evangelical message." And following the sentence about the bishops not being experts or politicians, the Pope states that they are "constructive signs of unity and defenders and promoters of human dignity: and that they are called to contribute to "the establishment of an ever more Christian, and for this reason ever more just, order." But all of this would pass unperceived because of the part of the speech which was initially emphasized and which some magazines undertook to transform into the only theme.[3]

"Papal Catholics" vs. "Political Bishops"

The sharpest part of the campaign was an attempt to set John Paul II's attitude against those of the Chilean bishops and, under the guise of obedience to the Pope, to call attention to the bishops' flouting of authority. The Catholic columist, Jaime Guzman, spoke in ERCILLA of "a strong and dramatic contrast," of the "depressing spectacle offered by certain Chilean bishops." The Pope--said Guzman--is a universal pastor who makes very exacting speeches, but does not meddle in politics, rather awakening admiration, universal love and unity. The Chilean bishops, on the other hand, make "pronouncements... which assume options with respect to which Catholics have the right to choose without breaking any moral or disciplinary principle."[4] The thinly-veiled message was: The Pope has explicitly forbidden the bishops' action. and the bishops can no longer look to John Paul II for support.

Federico Willoughby, in his column, "Seven Days" in LA TERCERA,[5] was more explicit, saying the "Parishioners in this country are coming to understand that in some cases the action of the local Catholic hierarchy is contradictory to the orientation and sense of social participation of the Vatican," and calling upon them to "organize a religious movement which is faithful to papal authority." The underlying message was: We must disregard the local bishops.

Television and Catholic Unity

To the press campaign--from which EL MERCURIO was absent after the first reports--was added a series of television spots in which the Pope's picture appeared at the bottom of the rotating world globe, while one heard a reading of his words congratulating the bishops for their actions for peace, or about them not being a symposium of experts. These spots were sponsored (financed?) by a group of Catholics who--very probably of good faith--appeared to have replaced the bishops in their task of building and maintaining unity in the Church. Thus the message contrasting the figure of a Pope concerned with peace and evangelization and building unity with that of the bishops meddling in contemporary politics was subtly reinforced. In addition, Federico Willoughby undertook to interpret clearly the meaning of those efforts, saying: "In view of this situation, Catholic organizations have appeared this week which are seeking fidelity to the interpretation of the gospel of Rome, which is interpreted by John Paul II."

Probably none of the Catholics or pseudoCatholics who participated in this campaign believed that it would be John Paul II himself who would put a delicate but radical end to it. On Sunday, 28 October, speaking in St Peter's Square at noon, the Pope made explicit mention, among other things, of the problem of arrested persons who have disappeared in Chile and Argentina and urged a prayer for a solution to the problem "not only for the good of the families directly involved, but also for the domestic peace and wellbeing of those communities." John Paul II took upon himself the defense of those who have disappeared, which the Chilean bishops have been doing for the past few years and for which they have been branded as "political." This time EL MERCURIO carried a headline referring to the Argentine-Chile dispute, and only in a subheadline did it refer specifically to those who have disappeared (without adding the adjective "alleged"), then printing the cable. As might have been supposed, these words did not echo previous ones in the pro-government papers or in the editorial columns.

But perhaps the most surprising thing was the warm words of approval the Pope dedicated to the Chilean bishops in his speech the following Sunday. In it he prasied the brotherhood of the bishops, the service they have rendered to the Chilean people, the dynamism of their pastoral action and, in general, the vitality of our Church. EL MERCURIO did not publish the cable on the front page--as it did the other times--and its headline read: "Papal Blessing to Chile," without mentioning in its subheadlines the Pope's praise of the bishops. Nor were there, this time, any commentaries by Catholic columnists, although television channel 13, through its correspondent in Rome, emphasized the unusualness of such a speech.

The Chilean episcopate--which has been characterized in the last few years by a strong recourse to pontifical doctrine--can be very happy with the support the Pope has given to their pastoral plan and their actions, and if there were any mistake, this has been entirely rectified by the 4 November speech.

No Unity Without Bishop

The press and television campaign which developed because of the Pope's words showed new tactics. This time there were Catholics who, in the name of their faithfulness to the Pope and taking advantage of John Paul II's undeniable authority and prestige, tried to confront their brothers with the divisive, "obey the Pope or obey the Chilean bishops," forgetting that in the Catholic Church unity is built around the bishop and cannot be built without him. To achieve this objective they utilized, in a subtle manner, the usual techniques of news management, keeping the appearnace of objectivity and of complicance with the duty to inform.

It is difficult to know what information actually reached the public and to know in what measure the confidence of Catholics in their bishops was diminished or increased. Certainly John Paul II wants us to be more united with them, and he would be deeply disillusioned if his words had served to take authority away from his brothers in the episcopate.

On the very day the Pope in Rome was supporting the work of the Chilean bishops, the Bishops of Talca published a pastoral letter on the unity of the Church and the present conflicts. In it, once more, they reaffirmed the only way, "in truth and love," to true unity: to follow Jesus, grow in the community of the Church, and travel in communion with the bishop.

FOOTNOTES

1. MENSAJE, 284 (November 1979), pp 763-765

2. EL MERCURIO, 21 October 1979.

3. The magazine QUE PASA in its 18 October edition cited only the paragraph in question and the Pope's words about peace with Argentina. In its next issue it editorialized in a slightly biased manner about the substance of the speech.

4. ERCILLA, 2308 (24 October 1979), p 12.

5. LA TERCERA, 28 October 1979.

6. Ibid.

7. HOY, 120 (7 November 1979), p 38

8735
CSO: 3010

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNDER NEW LABOR LAW ASSESSED

Santiago MENSAJE in Spanish Dec 79 pp 780-782

[Article by Jaime Ruiz-Tagle P.]

[Text] Labor minister Pinera, making his first report on the recently begun collective bargaining, has held that the raises obtained were "very much above" the Consumer Price Index (CPI), adding that this "disproves once more, with facts, all the ill-intentioned charges that this (Labor) Plan favors only the employers...." It is a serious matter that the minister should characterize the great majority of union leaders as "ill-intentioned," including those of UNTRACH, who have quite close ties with the government and the church institutions which have deeply criticized the plan, such as, for example, the Chilean Bishops Commission for Justice and Peace.

It is fitting, therefore, to make a brief provisional report on the new collective bargaining system which has been in effect for 3 months. Has it been an "all-round success," as the minister claims?

Point of Reference

If in judging the collective bargaining system it is compared with the years in which the unions were destroyed, the leaders in prison or deported and meetings prohibited, there is no doubt that the present process of collective bargaining represents considerable progress. However, the point of reference of critics of the Labor Plan is not the years of blackest repression, but the social history of Chile up to 1973 and what it was possible to construct on the basis thereof.

Certain Sectors and Matters Excluded

In this comparison it will be necessary to remember, in the first place, the isolated, the excluded--those who were not able to participate in the bargaining: the campesinos with small landholdings (who previously negotiated through communal unions), construction workers, the entire chauffeur group, service station workers, most of those employed in commerce,[1] the apprentices, temporary workers, etc. It has been estimated that some 400,000 workers will be able to take part in the bargaining, while up to 1973, around 580,000 enjoyed the right to negotiate.[2]

In addition, many matters--directly related to work--have been excluded from the new bargaining process. Citing the law, employers have refused to negotiate on matters they say relate to participation of the workers in the administration and running of the businesses. Nor have the workers even been able to negotiate on matters which so directly concern work life, such as collective vacations.[3]

Negotiation by Firm

With the new system, bargaining is not done by branch of activity, but by firm. The workers thus find themselves at a deadend street with no exit in a competitive system: if they insist on their demands, the employers answer that they will not be able to meet the competition; if they request negotiation by branch in order to avoid that problem, they are told that the law prohibits it. It is evident, in addition, that negotiation by branch is much more rational and technical. Negotiation by alphabetical order of trade names is a global novelty; its effect is to prevent workers of the same branch or sector of activity from negotiating simultaneously, thus stripping them of any power.[4]

In spite of the prohibition imposed by the legal framework, union leaders maintain that in many cases employers (in leather, textile, and metal enterprises), have joined together to deliver their answers. In other words, negotiation by branch is being done, but only by employers.

Crime Against Workers

As for the "right to strike" in the new system, the workers consider it a caricature which has prevented them from putting it into practice. [Footnote 5 probably goes in this paragraph.] They have had to have recourse, rather, to other forms of pressure, such as food and overtime strikes. Although in many cases a strike has been voted, it has only been effective in isolated cases--for example, in the American Pfizer and Goodyear firms--and appears to be more an expression of the workers' exasperation than a means of obtaining significant advantages. Now the employers know that if the strike lasts 60 days, the strikers can be shut out of the business--"legally"; now the employers can hire substitute labor from the first day (which is easy because of the high unemployment rate); now they can declare a lockout or temporary shutdown of the business. In the case of farm workers, employers now can also take away the tenants' privileges during the strike: leave them without house, garden, pasture for their animals, without shelter or bread.... It is not surprising that there has never been even the slightest rumor of a strike in the rural areas. The workers cannot--as before--negotiate pay for days they do not work and must also pay their taxes (social security).

Only certain public demonstrations--such as the peaceful march of the Goodyear workers to the Labor Ministry, or recourse to unofficial radio broadcasts--can give the strike the force of pressure which the law denies.

Benefits Gained

Formerly collective bargaining took place in a context of moderate unemployment. Now the high rate of unemployment has favored the employers. Thus one firm (Arauco Cellulose) has established a camp for the unemployed near where the strike vote was to take place; another (Proforma) placed advertisements in the newspapers to hire temporary labor.[6] High unemployment divides the workers, causes them to be in conflict with each other and weakens them as against the employers' strength.

Formerly, new demands were submitted after previous ones had already been met. Now the employers have tended to ignore, above all in their initial response, the benefits acquired. The union leaders have had to put up a fierce fight not to lose those benefits.

Formerly, workers who were hired after the negotiations received the benefits gained. Now they do not. What interest is there for new employees to join the union, particularly if they have to wait 2 years for the new bargaining negotiations?

Raises Obtained

According to the Labor Ministry, salary raises obtained have been at least 5 percent higher than the CPI. Only some firms--as for example the banks, which have an image problem and have obtained extraordinary increases--have granted noticeably higher raises.

Official propaganda and the fact that union activity had been suspended for 6 years had contributed to the creation of great expectations among the workers. The results obtained have given them a strong feeling of frustration and powerlessness, particularly considering that they will not be able to submit new demands for another year or two. Thus social tension is building.

The government has held that 5 percent annually above the IPC is "amply satisfactory" and in accordance with the country's rate of development. According to the department head at the Labor Ministry, 5 percent above the IPC would permit a worker to double his real income within 14 years. In contrast, between 1940 and 1970 increase of real income per worker was only 1.7 percent per year.

This point of view suggests at least the following observations:

1. The CPI as an indicator of the real rise in the cost of living has been very much questioned, and rightly so when it is a matter of measuring people's incomes.

2. The recent increases refer only to those who are able to participate in collective bargaining. They say nothing regarding the situation of 85 percent of the workers--those who in fact remain outside of the bargaining process.

3. The department head cites no source for salary increases in the 1940-1970 period. Now then, if one takes as a base the Wage and Salary Index of the National Statistics Institute (with data to April of each year), one finds that only in the period from 1964-70 did the index rise 90.1 percent in "real" terms, that is, 11.3 percent annually (as an accumulated average) over the CPI. In the period 1970-73, according to the same source, the index rose 20.8 percent, that is, 6.5 percent annually.

If one believes that there have been extreme years which are atypical, it may indicate that the average real index for the 6-year period 1965-70 was 40 percent higher than that of the 6-year period 1959-64. And the average index of real wages and salaries for the triennium 1971-73 was 55 percent higher than that for 1965-70 (still using the CPI as a norm).

Increases in wages and salaries in the years preceding the military regime were, then, much higher than 5 percent over the CPI.[7] "Real" wages and salaries doubled in only 9 years, from 1964-1973.

From the point of view of the workers, then, can it really be called an all-round "success" to have received a 5 percent increase, or very little more, in pay, after 6 years of union paralysis?

Final consideration

In concluding this commentary, we would like to make three observations, in the social, political and ethical orders.

On the social level, the new bargaining has been useful in giving the new leaders experience and a chance to seek new ways of exerting pressure which will allow them to defend their rights. They have had to fight against individualism and to stimulate class solidarity, especially with respect to the workers who have been forced to strike. The leaders will find themselves facing the difficult task of being efficacious within the framework of the imposed legal system, while at the same time not "losing themselves" in the bargaining process and ignoring the overall problems which affect the working class.

On the political level, the process has brought to light a change in the role of the state. Formerly the state was interventor: the state, through the members of some of its apparatuses, intervened in defense of the weaker parties, of the workers in conflict. The social struggle took place through the state's mediation. Now we have returned to the 19th century: the class conflicts are taking place face to face between employers and workers, while the state seeks to play the role of arbiter in an unequal fight.[8]

On the ethical level, one must comment on the statements of the authorities. The labor cabinet officer has maintained that collective bargaining "is not a procedure destined to help the worker obtain the level of income he needs to attend to his needs." The minister of labor has held that collective bargaining "seeks to determine wages according to productivity and the

market." Rarely has capitalist thought been expressed so crudely: No one speaks of justice, no one mentions the worker's right to a sufficient wage. The highest law is the market, supply and demand; whether for things or persons, it matters little--it amounts to the same thing. If men suffer, so what? Later on the welfare state will come along and put a bandaid on the most visible injuries.

14 November 1979

FOOTNOTES

1. According to the Chilean Confederation of Private Employees of the 150,000 business firms--who have an average monthly income of 4,500 escudos, only 20 percent have the right to collective bargaining. Some 120,000 poor employees are excluded.

2. With regard to the agricultural sector, a poll taken in Melipilla revealed that of approximately 6,000 campesinos, less than 10 percent have participated in collective bargaining. Cf. EL MERCURIO, 28 Oct 79.

3. No clear rule exists concerning what is negotiable and what is not. Many points of the demands have been objected to as illegal by the employers (medical service, annual vacation, paid leave, etc.), which has forced the workers to have recourse to the [development of] Labor Inspection. When the inspectors have intervened, generally they have declared these demands legal. In other cases they have sent the problem to the Labor Courts. These delays have held back and distorted the bargaining.

4. In the case of medium or small firms, an additional problem is added to the lack of power: the high cost of technical and legal advice, a cost which is almost the same whether the firms are large or small. The employers can charge these costs off to expenses, while the workers must finance them out of their own pockets.

5. An important group of union leaders, reflecting on the practice of collective bargaining, came to the following conclusions: "The strike according to the rules of the Labor Plan is a crime against the workers. Everything is against them. Only in very special cases (big businesses, highly qualified workers, unity among existing unions, etc.) is it possible to go out on strike for a short time with any possibility of achieving something more. However, at times the employers' attitude leaves no alternative." It is not strange, therefore, that on realizing the weakness of the workers, the employers have hardened their positions.

6. The law authorizes the workers to bring suit against the employers in case of illegal practices. But to bring such a suit has its cost, since it requires the services of a lawyer, and if he wins, the money goes for attorney's fees, since the firm is obliged to pay fines. Union members consider this procedure, therefore, to be useless.

7. In the period 1959-1964, on the other hand, wages and salaries dropped 1.6 percent annually, again according to the INE [National Statistics Institute].

8. The Goodyear case demonstrates well what we are saying: on strike because of the loss of part of the benefits they had gained, they were not received at the Ministry of Labor. The reason given was that the state may not intervene while negotiations are in progress.

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WORKERS SEEK HIGHER SALARIES, BUT INVESTMENTS ARE LOW

Santiago HOY in Spanish 5 Dec 79 pp 27-33

[Article by M.O.M.: "The Afflictions of the 'Rich Uncle'"]

[Text] While workers are asking for substantial salary increases, managers are disturbed about the low level of investments.

Recognized here and everywhere by diverse groups as the most profitable and the largest productive enterprise, CODELCO [Copper Corporation] Chile is facing a difficult situation. On one side there is the wage problem and on the other, that of investments.

In 1972, precisely when the company already had taken over complete ownership of the deposits of the Great Copper Mines, thanks to nationalization approved by the full Parliament, the last collective bargaining was signed.

From that time on the workers have been claiming a continual loss of purchasing power. "Nine years without collective bargaining is a long time," Bernardino Castillo, the president of the Copper Workers Confederation, was saying at the beginning of the year (HOY, No 94). But during that time they had placed their hopes on the collective bargaining which was still an announcement.

Now, just as they have demonstrated in various public statements, they feel disappointment and uneasiness. The Labor Plan for cooper is turning into something "lamentable and bureaucratic," Castillo said last week. He was referring to the company's offer with which CODELCO responded to "the draft for a collective contract"--as the equivalent to the old bill of demands is called--presented by the 10,000 workers of Chuquicamata. Even previously the northern miners, in a public statement, had called it a "cruel joke."

They are asking, on the average, a 100-percent readjustment of present earnings. The company, on the other hand, is offering only 4 percent, and moreover, it opposed 53 of the draft's 88 points, calling them illegal. For their part, the workers appealed to the Labor Directorate, which

upheld a substantial part of the company's objections. The workers then had 3 days to clarify the points objected to--the time limit was until Monday--and 6 more days to back up the other points.

For Bernardino Castillo "all this paper pushing is ridiculous...considering that we already have more than 5,000 sheets since 7 November, when negotiations got started, and discussion in depth has not even gotten under way..., the copper negotiations are a lawyers' quarrel." And between skepticism and shrewd mockery he concludes, "And all this, for what? If we see that the Labor Plan is favoring just the businessmen..., it's a joke."

Cheap Labor Force

Labor's argument is based as much on the deterioration of its income as on the profits that the company has made in recent years: 200 million dollars last year and around 450 million is expected for this year. These profits have been possible through "effective management," as the executives say. But cost reduction also plays a big part, and the small expenditures on the labor force are basic in this reduction. Salary levels at Chuqui this year are glaringly inferior to the 1974 levels, measured in dollars.

From another angle: in the United States, for example, 21 cents of every dollar is spent on labor to produce 1 pound of copper. In Chile, the average is about 13 cents per pound of copper. And at Chuqui, the average is scarcely 7 cents.

Moreover, some months ago there was new hope based on the rise in the price of the metal. Now that it is already approaching a dollar per pound, budgets have been worked out in accordance with this new price, but the workers feel that this has not affected their salaries. Nor can the workers apply pressure, at least legally. The Labor Plan prohibited the right to strike in companies of the Great Copper Mines. Only the El Teniente branch, which is starting its negotiation proceedings this week, can have this right. The rest, however, if they do not reach an agreement, must submit to mandatory arbitration. The arbitrator would be elected by the parties from a list previously authorized by President Pinochet. In the case of Chuquicamata the deadline for reaching an agreement is 18 December.

In any case, the salary malaise will surely not disappear with possible arbitration unless there is significant improvement. But neither is the company in a position to make very healthy expenditures for the simple reason that wage policies in copper as much as budgetary and investment expenses are controlled from on high by the Finance Minister. In other words, profits do not go to CODELCO. And a rejection of a major wage increase does not necessarily imply improving the level of investments in copper.

Lower Production and Higher Costs

That is precisely another of the problems that CODELCO will have to face sooner rather than later: The experts affirm that the present level of

investments will no longer even maintain production. Production will start to decrease, and the country will stop earning the dollars that could be coming in as the fruit of its "best business," as copper mining has been labeled.

Particularly uneasy about the matter are the professionals and experts in the copper industry, who, through the National Association of Copper Supervisors (ANSCO), have been expressing their concern. Even the governing board, whose president is Virgilio Perretta, visited President Pinochet to explain the situation to him. According to Perretta, President Pinochet told them to be calm, because "the government was fully aware that present investment levels could not be maintained and that the government would make the necessary studies to allot the necessary resources so that the industry will fulfill its plans."

Last year production was around 874,000 tons. This year a similar figure is expected, and for next year there would be a significant reduction, according to the managers. Perretta explains that since costs would remain constant, by having a lessening of production, the result is a greater unitary cost.

Total investments in 1978 came to 170 million dollars. This year the investment level will be similar, and profits--thanks to a better international price for the metal--will double. Despite this, Perretta recounts that the total investment stipulated for 1980 is about 185 million dollars, "which already assumes that there will really be serious repercussions on cost and production levels." Perretta explains: "This amount covers only the maintenance of plants, deferring all those elements related to expansion, which involves processing a greater quantity of the mineral to absorb the decreasing tendency of the copper content. Because to maintain production of fine copper with a smaller content in the deposits, a greater quantity of the mineral necessarily has to be processed. And this means expansion. Then there is the other problem of replacement of equipment."

As Perretta states, to maintain the present production levels, about 290 million dollars would be needed in 1980, in accordance with the needs of CODELCO's own long-term development plans.

Necessary Programing

The managers' worries are not isolated. There are also reports in this regard from experts and specialists who believe it is indispensable to plan a higher level of investments in time. For the simple reason that "copper mining is--almost certainly--the activity of highest profitability in the long run," as economist Ernesto Tironi asserts in a study on copper and Chilean development published by Cieplan.

According to Tironi, since Chile has around 25 to 30 percent of the world's reserves and today generates only 13 percent of this wealth, said increase in investments could mean easily doubling production in 8 to 15 years. Of

course, warns economist Tironi, for this action to bring about genuine benefit for the country, it cannot be done in a context of laissez faire as some claim. "Expansion must be carried out in a framework of state policies that will take into account the impact that copper has on the entire economy and that will try to lessen or counterbalance the negative aspects of a growth based too much on that natural resources."

This warning certainly seems to be appropriate today because on one side there are official economists who do not want to increase the level of investments in Chilean copper, but rather trust that projects will materialize of Anaconda, Exxon, or any other transnational that may appear on the scene. Even more, in economic circles close to the government, the idea persists of making the copper enterprise private. Says Perretta, "We are worried that the idea will always remain dormant that the state must not keep these mineral deposits. Many attempts in this area have been thrust out, and the idea that each one of the deposits should be changed into a corporation remains always under the surface."

Employment

Another argument that is usually given against increasing investments in copper in a country with such high unemployment is that this industry uses a very small part of the labor force. Certainly copper is very capital intensive, and in the short term making very high investments would create fewer jobs than in other industries. But as Tironi shows in his study, "with adequate planning, at the end of a certain time period, investment in copper can create indirectly as many productive jobs as in other industries that are more labor intensive." In addition, according to calculations made by Tironi, for all this activity to lead to growth, all the surplus profits that copper produces should remain in the country and be reinvested. "If the first condition does not occur, as would happen, for example, if transnational companies exploit the new copper mines, then the comparison stops being valid."

On the other hand, financing to carry out major investments would not be a problem. According to Perretta, a company like CODELCO Chile, with the international stature that distinguishes it, would have access to unlimited credit. And as some economists pointed out, it would certainly be a different matter to incur debt for productive copper projects that have such high profitability than to get into debt only for consumption.

"Let debt be incurred for development," says Perretta, "if copper is the great comparative advantage that this country has." And he finished by remarking, "In fact, we have to see only in what direction foreign investment is moving."

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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PRISON SYSTEMS, REHABILITATION

Interior Minister's Speech Text

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 2 Dec 79 pp 8-9

[Special address by Division General Sergio del Valle, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and minister of the interior, to the November 19, 1979, afternoon session of the 1st International Symposium on Prison Systems, held in the Palace of Conventions]

[Text] Comrades of the Presiding Body;

Distinguished Delegates and Guests at this 1st International Symposium on Prison Systems;

On behalf of the high command of the Ministry of the Interior, its commanders, officers, NCOs, soldiers and civilian employees, we want to extend to you our most sincere and heartfelt revolutionary greetings and warmly welcome you to this socialist country.

Distinguished delegates and guests, for several years, the Ministry of the Interior has been taking steps to hold an international meeting to give detailed, multilateral consideration to prison systems. Today this has been made possible by this Symposium.

Although the Cuban delegation will make an expose of the experiences resulting from the past 20 years of socialist construction, within the framework of a difficult struggle first to survive and then to consolidate the Revolution, I want to take advantage of this opportunity of addressing such outstanding workers in the field of criminology and penal policy to make a brief presentation on the prison system in our country.

Before the victory of the Revolution, our jails were veritable centers of corruption and terror in which thousands of men and women lost their lives through disease, promiscuity, overcrowding, abuse, ill treatment, torture and even murder in all its forms.

They were class-based, bourgeois jails, chiefly aimed at crushing the resistance of workers to exploitation, where there was no desire to reeducate.

As a result of the victory of the Revolution, extensive socioeconomic changes took place in our country--new relations of production--which served as the basis for a qualitatively new policy towards citizens on the part of the socialist state. Marxism-Leninism is the theoretical framework for that policy.

This new attitude towards man, towards freedom of the individual and the rights of citizens, also gave rise to a new attitude towards those who violated the law and, in turn, posed the problem of the need to eliminate crime.

The increased material well-being of the workers and their greater knowledge and awareness help provide the objective conditions to do away with crime, which is chiefly a legacy of the past system of exploitation, and makes it possible to replace gradually prison sentences with measures of a social and educational nature.

However, in this first stage of socialist construction, in which crime still manifests itself with relative force, it is necessary to apply severe penal sanctions combined with effective prophylactic measures.

In its struggle against man's negative actions, the socialist state is forced to take severe measures of compulsion, such as prison sentences. These measures of compulsion are not the main means of exerting influence--they must be complemented by a constant effort to convince.

As part of the struggle against crime, we must take a series of social measures one of which is the prison sentence as stipulated by law.

In our Penal Code, sanctions are not only aimed at serving as punishment for a crime committed but also to reeducate the offender in the principles of an honest attitude towards work, strict fulfillment of the law and respect for the norms of socialist living. Sanctions are also meant to prevent new crimes from being committed by the same offender or by others.

Our Penal Code stipulates that prison terms are handed down to those who have committed serious crimes, and they can't be longer than 20 years.

But sanctions aren't the only nor the main factor in the struggle against crime. Under socialism, the objective of sanctions, is not to cause physical suffering or offend man's dignity. There are limitations to the effectiveness of sanctions because they can't eliminate the cause of crime, but they do contribute to the aim of reeducation and the eradication of crime.

Prisoners are subjected to the limitations stipulated by the law, but they do not become people without rights. The law safeguards their life, health, honor and dignity, their right of ownership, their right to work and others. The enactment of legislation on this point is of great importance to strengthen socialist legality.

The essence of carrying out sanctions was defined by Lenin in a series of articles. He said that, after the victory of a socialist revolution and in the course of socialist construction, penal institutions would have the task of correcting and reeducating the offender. This view of "the transition from jails to educational institutions" became the basic guiding principle of penal institutions and the theoretical framework for their organization and further improvement.

Thanks to the implementation of this principle, as a result of the prisoners' doing socially useful labor, their betterment and the educational work done with them, jail ceased being a place to store away offenders and was transformed into a new prison system where the most progressive principles concerning carrying out sanctions are taken into account. These principles are the basis for socialist penal legislation. Among the main ideas on prison policy are the following:

--reeducation and correction of the prisoners' attitude as the main purpose of sanctions;

--the genuinely popular nature of the norms of penal law;

--control by society of the activity of the agencies which implement sanctions.

--strict fulfillment of the law by all officials at penal institutions;

--respect for the personality, honor and dignity of the prisoner;

--a correct combination of convincing and compelling the prisoner during the sentence.

The main mission of penal institutions is to reeducate prisoners in a spirit of honesty towards work, strict fulfillment of the law and respect for the norms of socialist living, thus trying to avoid their committing new crimes.

The attitude towards the personality of the offender constitutes the essence of reeducation policy, the basis for individualized treatment and the means to determine the forms, tasks and contents of this work.

The fundamental means for correcting and reeducating prisoners are stipulated by law. They include:

--the regimen during the fulfillment of the sanction, which reflects the essence of the sanction, that is, compulsion, and which regulates the activity of the center and its staff;

--socially useful labor as a universal means of education of man which is regulated by labor law;

--political and educational work aimed at increasing the prisoners' awareness and cultural level and their sense of initiative;

--organization of general and technical-professional education which ensures, without trauma, inmates' future incorporation into society.

All inmates are provided with the necessary living conditions in keeping with the standards of sanitation and hygiene.

Depending on the inmate's attitude towards work, the conditions for carrying out the sanction may vary. An inmate's attitude towards productive work and its results is the most useful measure of his or her progress in the reeducation process.

Objective fo the New Prison System

Following the victory of the Revolution, a new prison system was developed in our country. Its chief objective is to guarantee the reeducation and reincorporation of man into society in keeping with the principles and objectives of our new social order in which full happiness of man is the main goal.

The policy of penal institutions in Cuba is basically embodied in the new revolutionary legislation that is in line with the principles of socialist law by virtue of which the prison system is part of the judicial-penal protection of the Cuban state. In Cuba today, reeducation of prisoners is a priority issue, as evidenced by the treatment they are given to modify their conduct and facilitate their reentry into society as useful citizens. In order to accomplish this, a whole series of activities which range from work, studying, political education, technical training, disciplinary measures, participation in artistic and cultural events and sports and recreation are programmed. The social problems of prisoners and their families also merit attention.

Work plays a key role due to its influence on the formation of man's personality and the modification of his conduct. It fosters work habits and a sense of discipline, while making it possible for inmates to become trained in a skill or trade. This in turn enables them to obtain steady work and live with decorum when they leave prison, and, while they are in prison, to earn a salary and help support their families.

Centers of Penal Studies, Evaluation and Guidance

The task of reeducation requires the use of methods and techniques which throw light on the offender's personality and the factors which have a bearing on the crime he or she committed. Having this knowledge and taking into account the situation at each penal institution and the real possibilities for implementation, the specific reeducation treatment method is decided upon.

Evaluation, supervision of individual treatment and criminological research are indispensable to improve reeducation work systematically.

In order to improve the work of reeducation, embryonic scientific-technical institutes called Centers of Penal Studies, Evaluation and Guidance have been set up in penal institutions. These centers have begun the criminological evaluation of prisoners as part of correctional work, a process which will provide the necessary information to understand and treat them more fully.

The results of this work should reflect, as much as possible, how dangerous the prisoner is thought to be, a prognosis for his or her rehabilitation and thus, a more accurate classification. The inmate's physical or mental limitations are also considered when ability to handle the activities which are part of the correction program is being judged.

Medical and Dental Care

I want to stress the fact that, according to the programs and norms of the national health system, inmates are given up-to-date, complete medical and dental care which is all-around and continuous.

Penal institutions have the necessary facilities and staff to safeguard the health of inmates completely.

Under no circumstances are illegal or inhuman preactices permitted. Our doctors and dentists, as do the men and women involved in the custody and treatment of prisoners--who are educated in the finest traditions--observe the basic legal guarantees and act in line with high ethical prinicples.

Our work in penal institutions is based on respect for the human rights and full dignity of both prisoners and personnel of the institutions.

We have the necessary means to detect any mental disorder on the part of the accused or the inmate from the moment he enters prison.

Our Penal Code stipulates that those who commit crimes while mentally deranged are not criminally liable. This also holds true in cases of temporary insanity and mental retardation. Those who for any of these reasons are unable to understand the consequences of their acts or to control their conduct are sent by the courts to be treated at an appropriate medical institution.

Gradual Regimen

Greater attention is being devoted to preparing the prisoner for release. The gradual regimen prepares prisoners for release on parole. By means of short leaves, they gradually come in contact with the social environment in which they will function. But that isn't enough; we must work out the means

to ensure their reincorporation and neutralize the inevitable social prejudices towards former prisoners while instilling them with the desire to live in keeping with prevailing social norms.

The former prisoner must feel protected and cared for as he takes his first steps outside. Good wishes and even established legislation aren't enough to accomplish this; well organized action is required. That is why our penal institutions are developing specialized postinstitutional care agencies which, in line with the above mentioned principles, make sure that former prisoners are not abandoned to their fate. There are interministerial regulations which ensure former prisoners' employment so that both they and their relatives won't suffer financial or any other form of distress, and provisions are made to continue the process of reeducation started in prison.

It is very important to point out that, generally speaking, there is no discrimination towards former prisoners, but sometimes there are problems and resistance to employing them according to the technical or professional training they had when they went to prison or which they acquired in prison. They are paid the same as other workers in keeping with present labor legislation, and when it comes time to employ them their state of health and place of residence is considered.

In the process of reentry into society, the State Committee on Labor and Social Security, the trade unions, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Young Communist League and the Federation of Cuban Women play an effective role along with the social assistance agencies in charge of distributing--among other benefits--financial aid to former prisoners unable to work because of physical limitations and moving those who so require into old people's homes.

We must do all we can to make sure there are no setbacks in the reeducational work done as the former prisoner takes his first steps outside. Immediate employment is the best guarantee.

Minors Who Commit Crimes

Another subject I would like to mention has to do with minors who commit crimes.

The construction of socialism in our country has made possible the gradual decline in the rate of crimes committed by minor. This is not a problem of great magnitude, but it is cause for concern because of the importance our society attaches to the normal all-around development of the younger generation, since they will build communism in the future.

Work with minors who pose a threat or have committed a crime is carried out by society as a whole; the main part of preventive work lies with the national educational system, the parents and the family environment in which

the children grow up. It is also a task for officials from the National Revolutionary Police, the District Attorney's Office and the courts, in close coordination with the Federation of Cuban Women, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Young Communist League and People's Power in the areas under their jurisdiction. All of them take prophylactic measures with minors whose attitude or conduct may lead them to commit a crime.

Minors who commit crimes are sent to Centers for Evaluation and Guidance of Minors whose assessments are taken into account by the courts when handing down sentences and by the educational institutions in their individualized treatment of minors. The recommendations of these Centers are also followed by state agencies, political or social agencies and the family, as the case may be.

Internment in a center for the reeducation of minors is carried out when so ordered by the corresponding court when a serious crime has been committed. These centers are open. The reeducation programs include productive work, school, training in a skill or trade, political education and cultural, sports and recreational activities.

These activities are carried out under a fairly severe regimen which includes four hours of school and four hours of training in a skill or trade or in socially useful productive labor daily. Physical education is scheduled twice a week and political education once a week.

Cultural and recreational activities and science clubs are held on an alternate basis every week.

The minors are visited by their relatives on Sundays and they go home every other weekend.

In order to carry out these activities, the centers must have trained personnel. We haven't fully accomplished this yet. A key role is played by the reeducator who must have advanced training in pedagogy, which is a problem. There are also officers in charge of technical, sports and recreational activities who have advanced intermediate training, and teachers and physical education instructors and those who teach cultural subjects, etc. who are assigned to our institutions by the corresponding state agencies.

When we speak of treatment of minors, we must remember that this year International Year of the Child is being celebrated all over the world and tomorrow is the 20th anniversary of the proclamation by the UN General Assembly of the declaration on the rights of the child, whose ten principles outline the rights all children without exception should enjoy. Today, 20 years later, Cuba can proudly say it has gone beyond the principles outlined there. Protection and care of future generations of Cubans is a matter of constant concern for all institutions in our country.

Training Personnel

Another thing we would like to mention is the importance the Ministry of the Interior attaches to training personnel to work in penal institutions and centers for minors. There are two national schools for this purpose: one for new comrades who are given basic training in prison work, and another for officials and experts who receive follow-up courses. Likewise, the Advanced Institute of the Ministry of the Interior was set up recently aimed at further training of cadres.

Furthermore, officials and commanders who work at penal institutions take advanced courses in the Soviet Union as part of that sister nation's aid program to us.

Distinguished delegates and guests, in all these years of the revolutionary process and during the brutal imperialist blockade, the Government of the United States and its lackeys have resorted to a broad range of attacks in a vain effort to destroy or subvert the new order and undermine the international prestige of the Cuban Revolution. In this specific field, using meetings, international organizations and events as forums and giving counter-revolutionary groups their patronage they have unleashed an insidious campaign against the penal policy of the Revolution, claiming among other things that there are no human rights in Cuba. The imperialist enemy and other reactionary forces have stressed the case of those who were given prison sentences because they committed crimes against the security of the state demonstrating their hatred for the Revolution and for socialism and their fear of proletarian internationalism.

During this Symposium, the addresses and papers by the Cuban delegation and the visits you make to penal institutions and other places will enable you to have a look at the achievements of our revolutionary process in this field and to see how slanderous and ill-founded all these campaigns launched by Yankee imperialism and its lackeys really are. They are designed to confuse international opinion about the Cuban Revolution and its prison policy in particular.

Naturally we have shortcomings and problems. Not only are we a poor and underdeveloped country, but one which is blockaded and attacked. We have serious material limitations. Spending for economic and social development has priority over spending for penal institutions. We are behind in training our cadres and have organizational problems which all of you will be aware of.

We are confident that we will solve these problems eventually.

However, the main thing, the path we follow, as already mentioned, of complete respect for dignity and human rights is what matters. What can the imperialists say about human rights? What can the imperialists teach us about respect for human dignity? What can they teach us about the protection of children, young people, women, the elderly, workers and the mentally ill?

Every day there are reports in the press or in official statements by government representatives in capitalist countries, and especially in the United States, reports on illegal acts by repressive institutions against citizens in those countries and on the intolerable conditions of the U.S. prison system which are even recognized by officials from that country. The Puerto Rican patriots have told us about the cruel, abusive treatment they received in the jails of the United States, and the inhuman forms of physical and mental methods of torture to which prisoners are subjected to obtain fabricated confessions, create terror or weaken the revolutionary spirit of those who oppose the system of exploitation.

In the United States, various commissions set up by its very legal agencies have stressed the need to halt experiments and tests on prisoners, and the U.S. press has published stories on CIA programs, that include experiments on prisoners using various drugs, radioactive elements and methods of actively influencing the mind: "The CIA wanted to know if these methods would cause loss of speech, sensitivity to heat, memory or will power."

The Yankees, who have improved upon and developed the Nazi torture methods, are the ones who train officers of repressive institutions in Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and everywhere else that a struggle for independence and national liberation is taking place. It's they, the Yankees, who train the experts and the paramilitary organizations that torture, murder and bring about the disappearance of fighters in Latin America and every other part of the world.

And now, it so happens that it's the Yankee imperialists who claim that human rights are the cornerstone of their policy.

Pardons for Counterrevolutionaries

As Comrade Antonio Perez Herrero, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, pointed out, the Cuban Government has given many examples of its humane and correct conduct by pardoning, so far, 3,600 prisoners who had committed serious crimes against the Cuban Revolution.

These prisoners are counterrevolutionary criminals who committed acts of terrorism, who plotted to murder our leaders, who worked for the CIA, who took up arms against the Revolution and were members of gangs that murdered and abused peasants, literacy teachers and workers; who infiltrated our coasts, violating our air and naval space as pirates to attack villages and carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism; mercenary invaders who were defeated at Playa Giron. They were not people who simply opposed Marxism-Leninism; they committed concrete acts against the Revolution.

As our commander in chief has explained, only a small group of less than 600 prisoners has not been released due to the extremely repugnant nature of the crimes they committed during the Batista regime, crimes committed later in the service of imperialism or because they maintained links with terrorist groups abroad. For this reason, it was decided not to pardon them.

Agreements of the 1st Congress of the Party

Distinguished delegates and guests, the 1st Congress of our Party outlined the general course to be followed by the Ministry of the Interior and penal institutions in particular.

On the subject of the struggle against the manifestations and social hangovers of the bourgeois regime that still subsist, the Congress stressed the need to take measures to combat and eradicate manifestations of anti-social conduct, to defend property and socialist legality, to improve the agencies and increase the cadres' level of training while strengthening their links to the masses.

Speaking about reeducation of the offender, Fidel said: "The socialist state can't be indifferent to the fate of any individual. If a person is in prison whatever reason, even plotting against the Revolution, it must do all it can to make him useful in one way or another, to give him a chance to integrate into society so he can work and live decently."

The demands made by the 1st Congress and by the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba are of great importance for the agencies in change of implementing prison sentences. They contain the general guidelines of the Party regarding the need for sanctions and the role of our agencies and officials in this field.

The gains made in the work of penal institutions and all other branches of the Ministry of the Interior are closely linked to the efforts of the political agencies and the organizations of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Young Communist League. With their example and active participation, the commanders, officers, political educators and Party members working at penal institutions increase the ideological level of the rank and file and have a positive influence on the fulfillment of law and work quality. In order to do so, they systematically analyze the essential aspects of the work, probe areas where there are problems and take measures to solve them, making suggestions for improvement.

A Complex and Inspiring Task

In general terms, these are the chief features of the prison system in our country, and I think that in the course of the event you will get a better idea of them through our presentations and the visits you will undertake.

We don't feel that our penal system is by any means perfect; we still have shortcomings and problems of both an objective and subjective nature. But you can be sure that we have acted with honesty and dedication, although not always efficiently. Our management and organizational ability and our capacity to coordinate and obtain the cooperation of state agencies and mass organizations is still inadequate. Our country will continue to carry out this complex and inspiring task of bringing those who have violated the law back into society's fold.

Our work has been and will continue to be based on one fundamental premise: complete respect for civil rights and human dignity.

This Symposium will clear the path that we still have to travel and promote our theoretical development, which we will put to advantage in our daily work.

We know that the struggle against crime implies carrying out tasks of great political importance which can only be tackled with the help of all state agencies and social organizations. This event is a serious effort to organize that struggle.

We are very grateful for your participation.

Thank you very much.

Labor as Rehabilitation Factor

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 2 Dec 79 p 12

[Article by Jose Gabriel Guma: "Labor: A Major Factor in Rehabilitation"]

[Text] One of the most rewarding and complex battles waged by the Cuban Revolution regarding human rights has been the radical transformation of the monstrous prison system inherited from capitalism.

Even though a great deal still remains to be done, Cuban and foreign jurists specializing in criminal law, sociologists, psychologists and other professionals are of the opinion that Cuba's present policy regarding penal institutions is an interesting example worthy of being taken into account by other countries.

The present prison system, a product of the Revolution, is aimed at the all-around reeducation of prisoners so that, once they are released they will become useful citizens.

It is not an easy task, because many years will pass before such crimes as homicide, murder and attacks on persons and property disappear, along with other manifestations now considered as crimes such as vagrancy, which are the product of a negative judgment of antisocial acts.

In the 60s, when the Revolution was still fighting for survival, the Department of Penal Institutions of the Ministry of the Interior began to close down the old prisons, that lacked the most elementary living conditions and made rehabilitative treatment impossible.

In less than 12 years a total of 18 jails, penitentiaries and correctional institutions unfit for the implementation of reeducation programs were closed down. They have been replaced by modern penal institutions for

housing inmates divided into graded classes: those under strict confinement, those under less rigorous regulations, those in detention awaiting trial and potentially dangerous convicts.

The new penal institutions have excellent housing and security conditions, allowing for the correct individualized treatment of inmates and are built in accordance with the law establishing separation of inmates of different grade classes.

The institutions have quarters for meetings with defense lawyers, the training of inmates and for the work being done by the Centers of Penal Studies, Evaluation and Guidance.

Work: Means of Rehabilitation

Work is one of the major factors in the reeducation of inmates and is also a determining factor in the policy aimed at readapting the former prisoner to society, developing in him or her a positive attitude toward the country's productive activities and compliance with the laws and standards of coexistence under socialism, in accordance with the Penal Code precepts regarding the protection of society and persons and the social, economic and political order.

The Cuban prison system's regulations for serving time involve labor, political education, courses to improve the inmates' educational level and technical and professional training. The successful conclusion to this program comes with the reintegration of the former prisoner to society and his joining the work force through the State Committee for Labor and Social Security.

The implementation of the Constitution's precept that "work in a socialist society is a right and a duty and a source of pride for every citizen" is evinced by the fact that between 1971 and 1978, 79 percent of the penal population fit to work was engaged in work useful to society.

In some cases, work is done in plants and shops within the penitentiaries or in areas adjacent to them. In others, the inmates work building polytechnic institutes, high schools, dairies, hospitals, etc.

As we said before, work is one of the main aspects of reeducation programs, and it plays a major role in the development of human beings and in how they handle themselves in society. It also enables inmates to develop work habits to become skilled workers and to earn wages in accordance with the established wage scale.

In this way, inmates not only help support their families, but also they contribute to the development of the country. They pay part of what it costs the state to maintain them through a deduction in their wages.

Combinado del Este Penitentiary

The important role played by work in the reeducation of prisoners is evident in Combinado del Este penitentiary, near Havana.

The modern buildings include the building for conjugal visits, the hospital and dental clinic and a series of industrial installations, the largest one being a batching plant for turning out prefabricated sections which are used to build dairies, high schools and other educational centers, and industries. The work shifts in this plant are similar to those in plants of the Ministry of Construction, and the inmates who work here are paid scale wages.

Prefabricated sections made in this plant have been used to build more than 35 junior high schools in the countryside, the teacher-training school in Vento, the Palace of Conventions, the textile plant in Wajay, a number of departments in Antillana Steel Works, the divider on Rancho Boyeros Avenue and the fence around Jose Marti Park.

The plant has already fulfilled 90 percent of its production plan for this year and is now turning out sections for several dairies, the Manposton reservoir canal and various other construction projects.

The workers in this plant, some of whom are former inmates, attended training courses before being assigned to this job. At present, a group of inmates is attending six-month courses on concrete casting, steel construction, crane operation and equipment storage.

The penitentiary also has an enterprise for sundry products which went into operation in late 1977. Last year it produced over a million pesos' worth of living and dining room cast-iron furtniture and handicrafts made of bamboo and materials left over from other products.

As in all other penal institutions, Combinado del Este penitentiary tries to get all inmates fit to do so to work, for their and their families' benefit and for the benefit of economic projects.

Nuevo Amanecer Women's Prison

Conditions in Nuevo Amanecer, the new women's prison that replaced the old one in Guanabacos, are similar to those in the men's penitentiary. Many of the women are serving time for crimes against property, as in the case of many male inmates, and the rehabilitation program includes embroidering, crochet, knitting, pattern making and making men's and women's clothing--lightweight suits, shirts, and blouses, matching blouses and slacks, etc.--and dolls made from remnants of cloth. This work is done in spacious, airy shops. The inmates work six days a week and are paid scale wages.

Like the men's prison, the women's prison has its own hospital and dental clinic and quarters for conjugal visits. The inmates are visited regularly by their children and relatives, attend general education courses and take part in cultural and sports events.

Combinado del Este, Nuevo Amanecer and other institutions of the Cuban prison system are the result of an innovative humane and scientific effort to tackle and solve the problem of men and women who transgress the norms of society.

Inactivity, a feature of the prison system in capitalist society, a system that seeks only to punish, does not exist in Cuba's penal institutions, where work as useful to society as that performed by any worker in a factory or on a construction project is an increasingly important factor in the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of the inmate population.

The Phrase Lieutenant Flor Chala Benitez Likes To Hear

"You see, Lieutenant, I haven't gone back to prison." These words, which Lieutenant Flor Chala Benitez says she often hears when she meets women who have served time in Nuevo Amanecer prison, are extremely gratifying to her and encourage her to go on with her rehabilitation work.

She told us that she was born in Manzanillo and was an underground member of the 26th of July Movement. Later on she let us in on a secret: she is the proud great-grandmother of a three-year-old girl named Annia.

Flor is the granddaughter of a Dominican freedom fighter who came to Cuba to serve under General Antonio Maceo in the struggle for independence and was so seriously wounded in the battle of Los Melones that he was made an invalid for the rest of his life. She was a member of the Lidia Doce Battalion, composed of militiawomen, and has been working in penal institutions since 1961.

Her record includes membership in the women's garrison that replaced the men's garrison in the former women's prison (no longer in use) in Guanabacos, and graduation from the Camilo Cienfuegos school for training penal institution officers.

As in the case of many jobs, "you really have to like the kind of work that is done in penitentiaries to go on with it and do a good job. It's true that there are times when you feel that you're about to give up in the face of so many problems, but there are also times, and this happens quite often, when you're elated by seeing a woman who has served her time and has been rehabilitated walk out of the prison and not come back."

Lieutenant Zambrana's Secret War

Lieutenant Israel Zambrana Torres, who is now in his mid-fifties, has spent a good part of his life working in penal institutions. He was only ten when he started working as a canecutter, along with his brother Julio, on the Labori plantation in Candelaria, Pinar del Rio province. They were paid 40 cents a day for cutting a sizable amount of cane, and the cutting started at five in the morning. These few cents and the meager wages their father was paid for driving an ox cart made up the miserable income the family had to live on.

A descendant of slaves brought from Africa to the western provinces of Cuba, Israel did all sorts of odd jobs from canecutting to bricklaying. Later on came the militia, the invasion of Playa Giron, the battle against bandits in the Escambray Mountains and his work in the Ministry of the Interior. Stages of his life, the most recent one being a tour of Angola as bass player with a musical group from the Department of Penal Institutions of the Ministry of the Interior.

He is in charge of a brigade of inmates from Combinado del Este penitentiary who are working on construction projects. He told us that it wasn't easy to establish a close relationship with his charges, that it takes time and working alongside them day after day to accomplish. Then it's possible to talk to them, to counsel them and encourage them to rid themselves of erroneous conceptions and actions. They respect him and he makes it a point--"It is my job and my duty," he said--to try to see to it that after they leave the prison they become citizens useful to society and not return to jail. His superior officers say that this is Lieutenant Zambrana's "secret war" in his daily, difficult task.

CSO: 3020

ARRESTS, TRIAL, SENTENCING ANNOUNCED IN GASOLINE FRAUD CASE

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 15 Nov 79 pp 1, 3

[Article by Lazaro Bravo: "Gang Misappropriating Gasoline Sentenced"]

[Text] Crime Established

While the operators at our sugar mills are working to effect an annual saving of millions of gallons of oil, a fuel brought thousands of miles and used to keep our whole economic and social life functioning, while our workers are struggling to recover the production not completed for various reasons and to carry out the directives of our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, and our party, a group of unscrupulous individuals has been engaged in defrauding the Cuban state by making off with millions of gallons of gasoline by means of various deceptions which, thanks to the timely intervention of our authorities and the watchful eye of the people were discovered before the fraud developed further.

Those responsible (20 men and 3 women) were turned over to the courts, where they will have to answer for their crimes.

By way of general information for the people, this journal will describe in general terms how this group operated and will report promptly as soon as the sentences handed down by the courts are determined by the conclusion of the affair.

We will report on exemplary cases to make it clear that in the workers' society, there is no place either for crime or for criminals.

Trial Held

As a result of the illicit activities of 23 defendants, an increase in regular state gasoline consumption totaling 2 million 669,000 gallons and a drop in regular private gasoline consumption of 661,500 gallons occurred in the city of Havana during the second half of 1977.

The drop in regular private gasoline consumption represented a value of 890,000 pesos, by which amount the Cuban state was affected.

The Deeds and Those Responsible

As demonstrated by the prosecutor with abundant evidence, the commercial head of the Service Center Enterprise in the city of Havana conceived the notion of defrauding the Cuban state by appropriating and selling the vouchers for the purchase of gasoline received at the various service centers in the capital against the delivery of fuel to the bearer of these vouchers.

These documents (vouchers), collected by the various branches of the enterprises, were turned over to the commercial head mentioned above to be incinerated (burned).

To make this misappropriation possible, the commercial head transferred the head of the Plaza branch to the post of inspector in charge of supervising and certifying to the burning of all the vouchers.

When the two had reached an agreement, they began to pursue their illicit operations with the heads of the branches in the Plaza, Havana Center, Marianao, Cerro and Playa municipalities. These operations were carried out an undermined number of times until their arrest in January of 1978.

Vouchers for Money

In order to exchange the unburned vouchers for money, two of the leading defendants reached an agreement with the administrators (now in custody) of various service centers in the municipalities of Playa and Marianao.

They in turn made contact with eight other defendants, some of whom had criminal records and worked as gas pumpers, with the exception of two, an electrician and a greaser, respectively, in the sector workshop of the enterprise.

In the course of the investigations it was established that one of the main participants in these deeds received unburned vouchers for 675 gallons of gasoline from the head of the Playa branch, which he sold to an individual not as yet identified, known as "Adelio," dividing the money received equally. In November the operation was repeated with the same individual, involving a sum of 1,500 pesos and the participation of another defendant.

Thousands Received

The sums received by the various persons involved came to almost 900,000 pesos. Large sums of cash, unburned vouchers, and goods apparently

purchased with the profits from this lucrative business, including automobiles, were found in the homes of many.

The vouchers were bought in some cases at 30, 35, 40 or 50 cents and were sold at up to a peso. In other words, in a matter of seconds, thousands of pesos changed hands.

Other Activities

Among the illicit activities involved in this case was the alteration of gasoline pump meters by a mechanic, so that they would show a greater quantity of fuel than that actually delivered and thus the "surplus" could be sold.

Other defendants, in addition to these gasoline transactions, engaged in illegal gambling and the sale of illegally obtained goods such as tape recorders, calculators, etc.

Dies and Printing

One of those arrested used dies and rubber stamps belonging to some state bodies in his possession illegally. He collected five centavos for each voucher provided.

It was found that false vouchers representing 4,700 gallons were printed.

Various criminal deeds were involved in this illicit activity, including misappropriation of public funds, illegal gambling, flasification of government documents and deceit of consumers, all of which are covered and penalized under the existing Social Defense Code.

Penalties Asked

The prosecutor asked the second chamber of the People's Provincial Criminal Court of the City of Havana for sentences of 20 years imprisonment for six of those charged with misappropriation of public funds, and for 15 years imprisonment for the other 17 charged as accomplices.

An additional penalty of 18 months was asked for the individual charged with illegal gambling and concealment, and for those charged with the crime of falsifying documents, the prosecutor asked for 4 and 6 years and 8 months' imprisonment, respectively.

An additional penalty of a year and a fine of 300 peso quotas each were requested for the nine defendants charged with the crime of deceiving consumers.

Civil Responsibility

It was also requested that along with their criminal responsibility for their crimes, the defendants bear civil responsibility and repay to the Cuban state the sum of 890,900 pesos, in addition to court costs.

5157
CSO: 3010

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY GROWTH: SOVIET CONTRIBUTION

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 2 Dec 79 p 6

[Text] The Chemical industry is one of the branches of the Cuban economy that has made marked progress in these last 20 years and continues to take great strides forward. For 20 years the industry has been the scene of a hard-fought battle to overcome the innumerable obstacles posed by underdevelopment and by the imperialists in their desperate attempts to destroy the Cuban Revolution.

In the early years of the Revolution the main efforts were concentrated on obtaining the best results from the facilities that existed at the time, which called for a crash modernization and expansion program. Later on, new equipment was brought in to increase production facilities. At present, the investments made in the chemical industry run to more than 300 million pesos.

One of the greatest battles waged by the industry was the battle for production, which had dropped considerably as a result of the exodus of technicians lured by U.S. imperialism and the lack of spare parts, which were practically impossible to obtain.

The branches of the chemical industry include oil refining, distribution of petroleum by-products, gas production, chemical products, fertilizers, glass, paper, tires, industrial gas and paints.

Although, as a whole, these branches constitute a conglomerate run by the Ministry of the Chemical Industry with a yearly overall production valued at some 700 million pesos, each one has its own special characteristics and a whole series of problems and its workers, technicians, managers and political organizations are constantly trying to solve.

A Great Example of Internationalism

The 8,000-mile-long overseas supply line established by Soviet tankers to provide Cuba with oil is one of the greatest examples of proletarian

internationalism toward Cuba. This historic line, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 1980, guarantees the operation of three petroleum refineries, one lubricating oil refinery, the ports throughout the island and vast warehouse and disbribution networks.

The Cuban oil workers not only faced up to the challenge of the powerful consortiums that used to operate the refineries, but also went on to keep them running and turned them into fortresses in the struggle against the imperialist blockade.

Today, Cuba's oil refinery output is 78 percent higher than when those plants were nationalized.

The close collaboration between Cuba and the USSR in the field of petroleum will be further strengthened in the coming years. Because of the enormous amount of oil that will have to be refined to meet the country's constant development, an investment plan is now being put into effect with the assistance of the Soviet Union to increase production facilities and raise the quality of the products of the Nico Lopez and Hermanos Diaz refineries, in Havana and Santiago de Cuba, respectively.

The plan calls for an increase in the production of oil by-products with the installation of a petroleum and lubricating oil refinery in Cienfuegos with a processing capacity of six million tons a year. In its first stage of operation the plant should process three million tons toward the end of 1985.

Steps are also being taken to develop the petrochemical industry.

Fertilizers

In 1959 there were 20 small fertilizer mixing plants in Cuba with an overall output in 1958 of around 195,000 tons. The present output runs to about one million tons and includes mixed, granulated and nitrogenous fertilizers.

One of the industry's largest plants is the Revolucion de Octubre, with a yearly output of 200,000 tons of ammonium nitrate and 35,000 tons of urea.

Hundreds of Soviet specialists and technicians participated in designing, building and putting the huge plant into operation.

Soviet specialists are now cooperating in the reconstruction of the fertilizer complex in Cienfuegos. The ammonia, nitric acid and ammonium nitrate plants are already in operation and steps are being taken to stabilize production in the urea plant.

Another major victory was scored in the last 20 years with the stabilization of production in the old CUBANITRO complex in Matanzas. This plant turns out whole, granulated and mixed fertilizers.

Even though the overall yearly output of fertilizers is five times that of 1958, it still falls short of the amount required to meet agricultural demands. Arrangements are being made to buy a nitrogenous and mixed fertilizer plant, which will be built next to the one in Cienfuegos, and another plant for granulated fertilizer. Plans to build another plant in Nuevitas are also under study.

Work is also being done to increase production facilities for turning out granulated fertilizers and studies are being made for the development of sulfuric and phosphoric acid industries.

A Big Boost to Paper Production

Although Cuba has been producing paper for many years the industry took on added momentum in the early years of the Revolution when the Tecnica Cubana (in Cardenas), Damuji (in Abreus) and Pulpa Cuba (in Trinidad) went into operation, backing up the one in Havana. Their present overall output runs to more than 120,000 tons, 80 percent of which is paper made out of sugarcane bagasse.

A plan for the further development of the paper industry using sugarcane bagasse as the raw material is being studied in cooperation with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

Construction of a cellulose molds plant is in its final stage and the Pulpa Cuba and Damuji plants are being expanded. A section for toilet paper production is being built at the Tecnica Cubana plant. Purchase arrangements of a cardboard and paperboard plant that will produce 45,000 tons were signed recently, and a white paper plant has already been purchased.

Real Progress in Glass Manufacturing

There has been significant progress in the glass manufacturing sector, primarily in the Orlando Cuellar and Amistad Cubano-Hungara bottle factories in Havana province and in the City of Havana, respectively. One of the first investments in this branch was made in the Orlando Cuellar, which led to an increase in production facilities for an added output of 34 million bottles. This plant will eventually turn out 145 million bottles a year. In 1959 the plant was the only one in Cuba and its production was limited. The Amistad Cubano-Hungara plant now has a new production line and is turning out electric light bulbs and fluorescent lights. This is the first time that fluorescent lights have been produced in Cuba.

A glass container plant is now under construction in Las Tunas. The plant will have production facilities to turn out 300 million units a year. These will include 21 types of bottles for soft drinks, milk, perfumes and other products.

The present production facilities for manufacturing glass bottles, ampules, plate glass, laboratory glassware and glass objects for interior decoration are 17 times greater than those that existed in 1958.

Tires and Other Rubber Products

Notable progress has also been made in the rubber branch in spite of the difficulties posed by raw material shortages. The product lines include tires, inner tubes, shoes, several types of rubber products for industrial use, recapping and vulcanizing. The estimated yearly production value is over 55 million pesos. After the plants were nationalized, production of tires for farm machines, a plant for industrial products and a recapping plant were added.

A program which includes the introduction of the latest technology and the use of raw materials that will replace those acquired in the capitalist market is now being put into effect with the cooperation of several socialist countries. Plans for the next five-year period include the construction of a radial tire plant and the expansion and modernization of existing recapping plants.

Chemicals and Industrial Gas

To meet national demand production facilities have been increased for turning out oxygen, acetylene and liquid nitrogen.

An industrial gas plant is now in operation in Holguin. A similar plant will be opened in Havana in the near future and the construction of another one in Villa Clara is in its final stage.

A large-scale program for modernizing and expanding existing plants calls for the expansion of the Patricio Lumumba sulfometals plant in Santa Lucia and the construction of one oxygen plant, two acetylene plants and one calcium carbide plant.

Paint Production Up in Spite of Raw Material Shortages

Production of paint has increased threefold since 1958 but it still falls short of national demand because of a shortage of raw materials. Existing paint factories, all located in the capital, produce oil paint, enamel, lacquer, varnish and ink.

The further development of this branch of the chemical industry will use raw materials other than those from the capitalist market. This will allow for more efficient use of existing production facilities.

Other Points of Interest

Steps are being taken to organize specialized brigades for repair and upkeep of plants, and to turn out spare parts to replace imported parts. Last year alone the results from this effort saved Cuba some four million pesos.

All sectors of the chemical industry expect to have experimental enterprise status by the end of this year as part of the new economic management and planning system.

The Cuban chemical industry is a good example of the practice of proletarian internationalism. A large number of Cuban specialists are now cooperating in the development of the chemical industry in Angola and Mozambique, and others are attending advanced training courses in the USSR, the GDR, Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries.

CSO: 3020

MAJOR PORT DEVELOPMENT WORK INCLUDES CIENFUEGOS

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 30 Oct 79 p 1

[Article by Jesus Roberto]

[Text] A total of 32 investments, valued at 300 million pesos, have been committed by the Ministry of Transportation to the development of the country's ports, a project which is already about 50 percent completed.

The ports included in the development projects are: Bahia Honda, Mariel, Havana, Isabela de Sagua, Nuevitas, Nipe, Baracoa, Santiago de Cuba, Cienfuegos, Batabano, Nueva Gerona and Matanzas. In the last two a new international port and a dock, respectively, are also being constructed.

Dock construction was recently finished in Bahia Honda, Pinar del Rio, and at this time complementary land projects are being carried out. In Mariel the warehouse areas are being modernized, and construction has begun on a commercial dock.

The greatest investment is in Havana, with the modernization of zone 6, and port installations will be developed from that point to Guanabacoa Bay. Six new docks will be constructed in this province, as well as a terminal for container ships and a central base for major repairs of port equipment, which at this time is in the planning stage.

In Matanzas and Isabela de Sagua, modernization is expected to be done on the present port areas. Modernization is planned for Nuevitas, and preparations are being made for the construction of a repair shop for port equipment there, as well as the construction of two new docks whose location is in the planning stage.

The modernization of Antilla and Felton and a new dock in the latter port are planned for Nipe Bay, while in Baracoa a dock has been finished and complementary land projects are being carried out.

Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba also have an extensive port development plan which includes the execution of several projects, such as dredging, unloading and other special docks.

A new dock has been constructed in Batabano and maintenance projects for the present installations are now being worked on. The Isle of Youth, in spite of the small percentage of the total to be invested there, has planned the building of an international port for the export of citrus fruits.

The modernization plan being executed throughout the country, along with the technical and organizational measures, has allowed increased productivity, and the Al Rojo Vivo Vanguard Emulation Movement has made possible a more than 300 percent increase in port productivity.

8735
CSO: 3010

PLANT TO SUPPLY MAJOR PARTS TO SUGAR MILLS

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 8 Nov 79 p 1

[Article by Sergio Maturell]

[Text] One of the country's largest iron and steel machinery industry plants is being constructed at present in Villa Clara for the production of tandems, pieces, parts, motors and equipment basic to sugar mills.

The sugar mill factory, which will also include the area of the Fabric Aguilar Noriega medium machinery plant located on the outskirts of the city of Santa Clara, is part of the bilateral economic cooperation agreement between Cuba and the Soviet Union.

At a cost of 65 million pesos, the new Cuban industry will be completely installed by 1984 in a 510,000 square meter area, which will quadruple the potential of the other plant, which has only 25,800 square meters.

The construction workers of Industrial Works Brigade 19-B has made a commitment, in salute to 5 December, to create all the conditions necessary to deliver the first line of tandems from the new plant in 1980.

To fulfill this commitment, the workers have been working 12 hours a day since last 8 October and expect to continue to do so until 5 December, Construction Workers Day.

The first metal girders of the plant, which has a reinforced concrete foundation, have already reached a considerable height, while expansion of the various work projects is progressing.

8735
CSO: 3010

UDN PLATFORM OF GRIEVANCES, CHANGES PUBLISHED

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Nov 79 pp 32,33

[Text] Introduction

El Salvador Is Experiencing a Severe Crisis

The violent situation our country is experiencing is not the "artificial result of subversive action," as alleged by the propaganda of the more reactionary sectors and believed by certain well-intenioned persons.

El Salvador is experiencing a severe crisis in its system of relations with property ownership, production, credit, exchange, distribution and economic subservience to imperialism. Together with that, the political system is in a state of crisis, that is, the state organization, the manner of governing, the legal, ideological and military instruments with which a small exploiting minority has come to dominate, subjugate the vast majority of the people at whose cost in labor and poverty the exploiting group has become richer and ever more powerful.

To put it briefly, the capitalist society of "Salvadoran" dependent workers is in a state of severe crisis as an entire system.

This situation is aggravated by the impact it receives from the crisis being experienced by the capitalist system throughout the world, but particularly by the of U.S. imperialism, upon which El Salvador is dependent.

We are now faced with a period of stagnation and even economic recession resulting in misery, hunger and unemployment much greater than the "normal" level characteristic of this unjust society, since the Salvadoran people have never been free of the scourge of these and other defects.

Our people have repeatedly tried to make use of the freedoms and rights which the Constitution supposedly guaranteed them to find a historic solution of liberty, justice and social progress; but this road was cynically and savagely closed to them.

An insatiable minority of powerful national and multinational exploiters imposed the old military rightist dictatorship in attempting to establish a fascist type of government.

The resistance of the Salvadoran people throughout 7 long and painful years made it impossible to impose such a government. During this resistance the Popular Movement developed in an organized manner, clarified its thinking and became a revolutionary movement capable of taking the offensive.

Although they were not able to win out completely, the fascists created and developed a far-reaching military and paramilitary apparatus specialized in massacres, massive "disappearances," torture, assassinations and the assurance of widespread official corruption.

This is the basic situation which gave rise to the violence which now pervades the country's daily life. Nevertheless, condemning violence "from whereever it may come" or justifying repressive violence as a "legitimate defense" has developed into an argument which, even when used by well-intentioned individuals, institutions and democratic sectors, in fact induces many to evade or decrease the depth which should be reached by the political, economic and social changes the country needs, the only road which can lead to a new type of social coexistence which is peaceful and dedicated to progress.

The 15 October Coup

It is in this framework of deep organizational and political crisis that the 15 October coup took place, a military movement in which there were a number of currents:

a. The patriotic concerns of a large part of the army's corps of officers which, up to a certain point, reflected the struggle of the Salvadoran people and the desire to oppose it.

b. The influence of some of the capitalists, who broke with the fascist life upon realizing its inability to crush the growing revolutionary movement and the need to try another method to conjure away the danger which that movement holds for their interests.

c. The influence of the position of a part of the U.S. Government on a few occasions, particularly in the action of the State Department, according to which it is preferable to seek a solution to the crisis of Latin American dictatorial regimes through a policy which includes certain democratic concessions supposedly capable of blocking the revolution and maintaining imperialist domination intact.

Another group of U.S. imperialists, represented by the Pentagon and the CIA, believes only in the physical extermination of the revolutionary movement and has supported and is continuing to support the fascists.

All these influences weigh upon the new military command and the government junta.

The 15 October coup resulted in a regrouping of democratic and revolutionary forces. We have incorporated part of these in cabinet positions and in the junta itself, with a number of variations, from those who offer the new military government unconditional support to those who maintain a critical and conditional position. Another group of those forces decided to remain in opposing positions, also with various differences. The vast majority of the people, although hopeful, are watching these events with skepticism.

And it can be no other way, for the 15 October coup did not emerge clearly breaking off with every line of the military and civilian fascists but, rather, accepting compromises on behalf of the "unity of the Armed Forces," or "to prevent the destruction of the army" and the like, even though it was thoroughly proved that it was precisely the fascists who, prodding the army to oppose the Salvadoran people, had been trying to bring about its destruction.

That is why not even the promise to cease repression, release political prisoners or reveal their whereabouts has been forthcoming from the new military command. After the 15 October coup the fascists took it upon themselves to show with the undeniable arguments of massacres, vandalism against business and an initial attempt at a countercoup that they are and are continuing to be the principal and most dangerous enemy of the Salvadoran people, an enemy which cannot be eliminated with simple decrees.

A genuine and effective break with the fascists and their removal from power is a contingent task. The Salvadoran people will not believe in the promises which have been made, the political crisis will not be overcome and democracy will not go forward unless this problem is completely resolved.

Moreover, unless we bring about profound economic and social changes, it will not be possible to find a true solution to the serious organizational crisis the country is experiencing, enable the country to defend itself against the impact of the international capitalist crisis, achieve peace, or come up with new guidelines for national development.

Without making profound organizational changes, any harangue in favor of harmony and social peace is a deceitful appeal to the working people to accept exploitation, misery and oppression without protesting or offering resistance.

The UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union] maintains that eliminating the fascists and bringing about the profound organizational changes the country needs are the two major historic tasks of our current situation.

The Armed Forces Proclamation and the Common Platform of the Popular Forum contain basically the same planning and urgent measures headed in this direction, which have not yet been carried out but which are completely valid as citizen demands.

Proposal for Elections

From superficial democratic positions the demand has arisen that the junta establish an early date to hold general elections, thus avoiding a confrontation with these two fundamental problems which are standing in the way of freedom and justice.

The UDN rejects that stand. Without eliminating the fascist presence and making organizational changes, elections would be another deception made to the Salvadoran people, a new and poor imitation of democracy.

The UDN believes that the Salvadoran people and all who are truly interested in a patriotic, popular and democratic solution to the national crisis, within or outside the army, within or outside the government, must demand and promote the following platform of immediate and basic measures:

Immediate Measures To Remove the Fascists From Power

1. Total cessation of repression in all its forms.

Dismissal and punishment of those responsible for the massacres of 22, 29 and 31 October.

Immediate release of all persons captured during the aforementioned repressive activities.

2. Disclosure of the whereabouts of the hundreds of political prisoners who disappeared between 1977 and 15 October 1979 by the only truly effective means: sentencing, capturing and extraditing Gen Carlos Humberto Romero, Col Arturo Armando Molina and the ministers and undersecretaries of defense, heads of the security organizations, ORDEN [Nationalist Democratic Organization], ANSESAL, and other special secret repressive groups which operated during the two previous governments.

The sentencing and punishing of all those responsible for the massacres, disappearances, torture and assassinations perpetrated against the Popular Movement during those two regimes.

3. The sentencing and punishing of the powerful capitalists and other civilians involved in bloody repression and corruption from 1972 until now; especially the group which hid under the name, "Committee for National Defense," and which meddled in the ANEP [National Association of Public Employees] until very recently, putting it in the service of its bloody and corrupt politics.

This group of capitalists should be immediately denied the credit privileges they have been enjoying with the Central Reserve Bank and all the other advantages granted them by the previous governments: for example, separating them from the managerial positions they have been proudly occupying in state autonomous or semiautonomous institutions and further investigating their fraudulent and corrupt machinations.

Investigation should be made of anonymous companies which have included as shareholders or executives certain military members holding prominent positions during the two previous governments.

4. Effective disarming and dismantling--visible--of special repressive groups: ANSESAL, ORDEN, false customs police, special sections of the National Guard, treasury police and national police, the Counterinsurgence School located in Gotera, and the false Armed Forces Center for Engineering Instruction (CIIFA) located in Zacatecoluca.

The clandestine headquarters of these groups should be exposed as well as the secret centers which direct them even now.

5. Dissolution of the Cantonal and Suburban Military Patrols; without this measure it would not be possible to dissolve ORDEN or create an atmosphere of true respect for the democratic freedoms and human rights of the majority of the Salvadoran citizens.

6. Dissolution of the current security organizations and replacing them with a civilian guard charged with ordinary police functions and completely excluding any members of the present organizations who were involved in repressive measures.

7. Dissolution of the so-called National Conciliation Party (PCN), not for ideological reasons but because of their responsibility in repression and corruption, that is, for their responsibility in abuse of the Constitution.

Essential Organizational Changes

We cannot seriously consider a solution to the organizational and political crisis to the benefit of the great majority of the Salvadoran citizens unless we make the following changes:

1. Agrarian Reform

To be truly thorough, as necessary, agrarian reform must take on the following characteristics:

a. Apply to the entire national agricultural territory and not just "districts."

b. Apply to every type of land without exception, regardless of the crop involved (coffee, cotton and sugarcane included), when the area farmed exceeds the geographical limits established for private property in a given case, limits which should be set so as not to affect small and medium-sized landowners.

c. Agrarian reform should give rise principally to forms of collective property which will make it possible to achieve high productivity and only exceptionally to individual parcels. Agrarian reform should definitely resolve the problem of the small farm.

d. The beneficiaries of agrarian reform should be the large numbers of nonsalaried agricultural and cattle-raising people and farmers without land or with very little.

e. The realization of true agrarian reform involves the abandonment of the policy former governments followed aimed at evading the problem and enriching the capitalists, even though it meant complicating to a much greater extent the possibilities for social and economic development to the benefit of the people and the nation. Therefore, COFINTA should be eliminated and the private parceling of agricultural land forbidden. The funds possessed by COFINTA should be transferred to help implement agrarian reform.

2. Nationalization of Foreign Trade

This would apply principally to:

a. The export of coffee, cotton, sugar and shrimp.

b. The import of crude oil and its derivatives, eliminating the multinational monopolistic intermediaries who artificially raise their prices; the import of fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery, vehicles for the transportation of freight and passengers, and spare parts for those vehicles; the import of medicines. In like manner, we should nationalize the import of other products of great impact on the national economy and popular consumption.

3. Nationalization of Banking System and Other Financial Institutions

It must be clear that what is meant here is the nationalization of companies handling the banking and financial activity in general and not the deposits or other interests of the public, which should continue to be the property of their current owners.

4. Nationalization of Entire Electrical Distribution System

This should also include the production of electricity which is still in private hands as of this date.

5. The state should take on the refining of oil and the production of fertilizers.

6. Repeal of all provisions in the Constitution or in secondary laws which deny or limit democratic rights and freedoms on the basis of ideological arguments.

7. Effective and complete eradication of administrative and judicial corruption.

Urgent Economic, Social and Cultural Demands

A. Wages, Prices and Employment

1. A 40-percent increase in all minimum wages (industrial, commercial and services, permanent and seasonal agriculture and cattle-raising).

2. A drop of at least 30 percent in the rents paid for urban housing and in the rents charged in business sections to small and medium-sized businesses and industries.

3. A drop in the prices of articles of broad consumption affecting the real "family market basket" and including not just certain foods but also footwear, clothing, items of personal hygiene, amusements, transportation, medicines and the like.

4. General drop in the prices of medicines.

5. Far-reaching organizational changes (agrarian reform and nationalizations indicated above) should be stepped up in order to confront the growing problem of unemployment. Massive layoffs and the closing of firms must be prevented.

B. Education

1. Effective respect of university autonomy and return of the 4.5 million colons withdrawn by the previous government from the National University budget.

2. Undertake a massive literacy campaign.

3. Reorient the national educational system, taking into account the conclusions reached at the National Seminar of Educational Reform held in 1978, in which popular reports predominated.

C. Health

1. With regard to the methods of administration and representation at the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security, we support the premises of the institution's employees' union.

2. Simplification of administrative procedures prior to obtaining medical advice.

3. The establishment of procedures aimed at improving the quality of medical services, especially with regard to outpatient consultation, emergencies and maternal and child care.

4. Simplification and improvement in the quality of laboratory and office procedures and services.

5. Simplification of the procedures for filling prescriptions in the ISSS [Salvadoran Institute of Social Security] pharmacies, state hospitals and the like.

6. Develop a national program of health education.

7. Develop a basic program of environmental sanitation.

8. Develop a national program of immunization, directed principally toward children.

Naturally, the aforementioned measures do not provide a solution to health problems; with the aim of finding a definite solution to those problems, it is our opinion that immediate steps be taken to establish a national health system which will guarantee the entire population efficient medical service from the aspect of prevention as well as treatment; preference should be given to the former.

Foreign Po icy Toward Central America and the World

1. The policy toward Central America should be directed toward the promotion of peace, nonintervention and people's right to self-determination.

2. Especially friendly and mutually cooperative relations should be promoted with Nicaragua. Agents of the Somoza Guard still in El Salvador must be told to leave our territory.

3. Diplomatic relations should be established with Cuba and an independent and worthy posture adopted in the OAS on the side of governments opposed to imperialist interventionism and defending the national sovereignty and natural resources of their countries.

4. In our country's international relations we should eliminate all discrimination against other countries for ideological reasons and establish diplomatic and commercial relations with the community of socialist countries of Europe, Asia and Africa.

5. El Salvador should cease to belong to the CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] and the TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty], as they are instruments in interventionism and imperialist aggression, devices for manipulating our country's armed forces.

6. El Salvador should support a policy which is invariably affiliated with the defense of world peace, disarmament and detente.

The UDN is calling upon the Salvadoran people, especially city and rural workers, to engage in an energetic and aggressive mobilization demanding that this platform of urgent grievances and changes be put into effect.

A definite struggle carried on by the people for this platform will determine the position of each and every one of the forces we bring into play in the national process of our current reality: civilian as well as military, religious as well as laic. This struggle will regroup and unite those of us who are truly in favor of democracy, independence and social liberation; it will isolate and weaken those who openly or clandestinely wish to maintain in the status quo this unjust society which is causing the people so much pain, misery and backwardness and infinitely enriching the few, who become immensely powerful and undisputed.

San Salvador, 15 November 1979

Nationalist Democratic Union Party, UDN

This platform was delivered to the Government Junta at the Presidential House on Thursday, 15 November, at the conclusion of a magnificent demonstration by our party.

8568
CSO: 3010

GOVERNMENT MINISTER QUESTIONED BY CONGRESS ON VIOLENCE

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 29 Nov 79 pp 2, 13

[Formal questioning of Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, minister of government and interior, by Christian Democrat deputies at session of Congress, 19 November 1979]

[Text] Taking into account the relative increase in population and the factors that can produce personality disturbances, the crime rate in Guatemala has declined rather than risen, as is believed at present, which shows that measures have indeed been taken to safeguard the lives and property of citizens. This assertion was made this morning by Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, minister of government and interior, on undergoing questioning by Christian Democrat deputies in Congress.

This parliamentary procedure took place at the request of the Christian Democrat delegation. The minister was accompanied by Juan de Dios Reyes Leal, vice-minister of government and interior, and Rolando Oliveros, ministry legal advisor.

The questions were put to the minister by deputies Ricardo Gomez and Guillermo Villar Aceituno, and Alvarez Ruiz gave satisfactory, lengthy answers to the expressions of concern voiced by the Christian Democrat deputies.

Alvarez Ruiz began by expressing his pleasure with the fact that the parliamentary practice of interpellation, unused since 1972, had been revived. He said, "It is healthy when it involves purely administrative actions by public officials."

Minister Alvarez Ruiz stressed that the situation of

violence in Guatemala is not as serious as people try to make it appear and that a concerted effort is being made to assure citizens the right to liberty, security and justice.

The questions asked Alvarez Ruiz, minister of government and interior, and his answers follow:

1. [Question] Mr Minister: What guarantees do the security forces under you offer in the face of the wave of violence (murders and kidnappings) that is now sweeping over the country?

[Answer] Twenty-four hours a day the government's security forces are constantly engaged in watching out for, preventing and combating both common and political crime. This endeavor has cost the lives of 105 officers from 1 July 1978 until now. This effort has enabled most Guatemalans to devote themselves to productive labor. Unfortunately, for budgetary reasons, we cannot assign a policeman to each citizen.

The question refers to the wave of violence, of murders and kidnappings now sweeping over the country.

There's a great deal to say about the violence, as well as about the murders and kidnappings. I will have more to say about them a little later, discussing their causes and the investigations that have been undertaken to stop them.

2. [Question] Mr Minister: What are the reasons for the resurgence of political and common violence in the country; and, concerning this, what measures have been adopted by the ministry for which you are responsible to control the violence and guarantee the nation's citizens the enjoyment of liberty, security and justice?

[Answer] In the first place, we have to establish the difference between political violence and common violence in our country. We cannot deny that both exist. However, in speaking of political violence we have to say that during the last 20 years Guatemala has been the scene of many struggles between political factions that are seeking to achieve their objectives through violence. An analysis of cases of political violence that have occurred in our country shows that the 1960's was without doubt the period that witnessed the largest number of violence acts.

We can safely state that political violence accounts for a small percentage of all violent acts.

The phenomenon of the violence has made it possible for international political parties, with the help of the world press, to soil Guatemala's image within a short time. The same political parties have publicized statistics concerning political violence that in our country is actually the product of common crime. Instead of helping to halt the violence in

the country, they spread uneasiness and bring about interpellations of ministers of state in some countries where they are in opposition and clearly are a minority.

Furthermore, the same international assault on Guatemala has led to a hardening of domestic political positions, intensifying the struggle between the extremes.

The overall figures for crime are higher than in the past; but this is because although population growth increases what is good in a country, unfortunately it also increases what is bad. Hence the need to place a special emphasis on the analysis of these problems so that the increase in population does not result in an increase in crime.

Common violence constitutes the largest portion of criminal acts.

We have inherited violence and poverty from the past. For this reason, the programs of the government of General Lucas Garcia have been drawn up to eliminate both problems. However this cannot be done in only a year and a half; for the United Nations has expressed the opinion that it takes several years for a country to achieve this.

We have to accept the fact that violence is a worldwide phenomenon that at present is troubling even the countries considered to be the most peaceful in the world. We can almost say with certainty that there is no place in the world where this does not constitute one of their principal problems.

If we summarize and add up the country's poverty, the international conspiracy, the struggle between extremes within Guatemala, and communist subversion, we have a picture that readily enables us to understand why political and common violence have existed in this country.

I have been asked what the ministry has done to halt this situation and to guarantee citizens the enjoyment of liberty, security and justice.

My answer is that a great deal has been done. In the first place, since July of 1978 there has been a thorough cleansing of the ranks of the police to eliminate all elements with bad records or connections with crime. There is a Police School that has produced several classes of professionals. New cadres are being formed in the Police Officers School. We are working with schools and colleges throughout the country with respect to civic and traffic education for all students by means of students' patrols. Last week the National Police joined the massive literacy programs being sponsored by the government. Officers will teach thousands of Guatemalans to read and write when they are off duty.

As if that were not enough, since 1978 there has been the Advisory Council on Law Enforcement Policy, an organ of the ministry, which seeks scientific

and technical solutions to the problems of common and political crimes.

Moreover, police officers and agents are studying and being trained abroad.

In the field of criminal rehabilitation, five penal science meetings have been held to seek multidisciplinary solutions to problems of criminality; and the Sixth Latin-American Congress on Penal Sciences will be held soon in Guatemala.

A national seminar on crime prevention and the handling of the criminal has been held; and many other activities with the same purpose have been carried out.

Experience has shown that such events have borne fruit, according to statistics for crime that we have. Taking into account the relative increase in the population and the factors that can produce personality disturbances, the crime rate has declined and not risen as people now believe.

This demonstrates that measures have indeed been taken to safeguard citizens' lives and property, which specifically rests among my powers as minister of government and interior.

3. [Question] Mr Minister: Which kidnappings and murders that have happened since 1 July 1978 have the security forces under your command solved, and what proof of it exists?

[Answer] Unfortunately, from 1 July 1978 until now, the international conspiracy against Guatemala has intensified. The ministry has investigated and has proved the arrival of international terrorists in this country. It has pursued them, and many have escaped.

The terrorist technique that has been applied in Guatemala is designed to destabilize the government and replace it with a regime which denies citizens their most basic rights.

It is a very difficult task for security forces to combat forces that are virtually invisible; for they operate in a clandestine fashion and have the advanced resources and techniques placed in their hands by those engaged in international subversion.

Because this country is in the process of developing, the police in Guatemala are not sufficiently well equipped nor do they have the human or economic resources needed to wipe out subversion and terrorism from one day to the next; but a great deal is being done, and I think that we are making progress.

It should be mentioned that developed countries that have millions to spend on preventing and combating crime are being shaken by it and cannot do much to avoid it. However, on the subject of the kidnappings and

murders that have been referred to, I shall go into greater detail.

There is no question that the murders and kidnappings that have been committed are part of an international strategy to destabilize the government.

It is naive to think that the government will benefit from the consequences that can arise from the death of democratic leaders such as Alberto Fuentes Mohr and Manuel Colom Argueta both domestically and internationally; but it is easy to conclude who can profit from these deaths and the creation of this type of martyr.

These murders are clearly a part of the strategy of the forces already mentioned.

But let us get to the point: Since 1978 the following people have been murdered: Oliverio Castaneda de Leon, Manuel Colom Argueta, Alberto Fuentes Mohr, Gen David Cancinos Barrios, deputy chief of the Fourth Corps of the National Police, various detectives, many National Police officers, newsman Jose Leon Castaneda, and some others. What has been done to clear up the circumstances of their deaths?

The National Police's detectives section and special investigations section have accumulated large files evidencing the extensive investigations that have been carried out. We have found that the victims' families blame the government for the crimes and do not cooperate. They do not even report the crimes as the law requires; they confine themselves to informing the press.

We interrogate supposed witnesses, and they firmly disclaim any knowledge concerning the events. We investigate the license plates of vehicles used, and they turn out to have been altered. Some vehicles turn up in ditches or burned, with their chassis numbers obliterated.

Thus, in most of the cases, the police reaches the point at which it is in a blind alley.

The same occurred with respect to the kidnappings of students Antonio Ciani, Benbenuto Serra, Julio Cesar Cortes Mejia and others. Neither the families nor the witnesses cooperated here, either.

This is the negative side; but fortunately exhaustive police work has also led to important successes. Among them, we have the capture of those who kidnapped the child Francisco Castaneda along with his rescue, the capture of 10 gangs of marauders and the capture of those who kidnapped Dr Raul Castillo Love.

The figures for the period mentioned show that the detective section of the National Police alone solved 37 cases of homicide, 16 of kidnapping,

25 assassinations, 15 assaults, 10 major robberies and 2 cases of marihuana trafficking, sending to court 129 people who are now in prison.

It is not beside the point to mention the work of the treasury agents, who during the same period uncovered 20 instances of drug trafficking and over 30 marihuana farms, including some that had 90,000 plants with a value estimated at over 1 million quetzals.

It is necessary to speak frankly. If we do not have the cooperation of the public, of the victims' families and adequate human and financial resources, the investigations cannot get very far.

4. [Question] Mr Minister: If, in the face of the escalation of violence, the ministry of which you are in charge has investigated whether paramilitary or parapolice groups are operating in the country outside of the law, and, concerning this, what measures have been adopted to control and eliminate them?

[Answer] As I understand it, the term paramilitary is applied to those groups that in one form or another exist within the structure of the Army to assist with certain functions. They are auxiliary groups included within the regulations.

I would say the same concerning parapolice groups. With that understanding my answer to the question is: No paramilitary or parapolice groups, in the sense intended in the question, are operating in the country.

What exists in Guatemala is groups of bandits, assassins, criminals who call themselves Death Squadron, Guerrilla Army of the Poor, Secret Anticommunist Army, Rebel Armed Forces and other names.

These groups are pursued relentlessly, whatever their political tendency, for they are illegal; and when they are apprehended their members are turned over to the courts of justice to be tried under the law.

5. [Question] Mr Minister: Do you believe that the inhabitants of our country actually enjoy the guarantees granted them by the present national constitution, and in your role as minister do you respect human rights?

[Answer] Yes.

6. [Question] Mr Minister: What steps have you taken to assure citizens the full exercise of the guarantees contained in Article 63 of the national constitution, and, concerning this, why have various requests to demonstrate peacefully, unarmed, been denied?

[Answer] Article 63 of the constitution recognizes the right of peaceful, unarmed assembly. It states that the rights of assembly and public demonstration may not be limited, curtailed or interfered with, and the law will govern them with the sole purpose of insuring public order.

This guarantee is respected and preserved. Permits have been granted to demonstrations requested in accordance with the law. We have specific examples in the demonstration of last "20th of October" and the gathering of the APG [Guatemalan Journalists Association] and the SIMCOS [expansion unknown] in the amphitheater at Centenary Park prompted by the unfortunate death of journalist Jose Leon Castaneda.

Previous demonstrations have not been authorized because the applicants, despite their having the law at hand, have not satisfied the requirements.

As a rule, they do not adequately demonstrate their authority to act or they omit legally required steps, which results in denial of their applications; for we observe the law and can't ignore it.

Because of questions asked concerning the regulation issued 29 March 1932, regarding the manner in which the constitutional right of public demonstration may be exercised, the executive board of the bar association has issued an opinion.

The board believes that, under present circumstances and at this period in time, the regulation in question has become inoperative and is not consistent with existing constitutional standards, under which the rights of assembly and public demonstration may not be limited, curtailed or interfered with, and the law will govern them with the sole purpose of insuring public order. If we bear in mind that the pertinent part of the regulation in question refers to the circumstances existing at that time, for public order had been disrupted and thus there was an unusual political and social situation and considerable political conflict, then we can infer that the regulation promulgated was justified.

With respect to the related constitutional measure, it has been concluded that the right of public demonstration constitutes an inalienable prerogative of the citizenry and thus may not be limited, curtailed or interfered with. Of course, in the opinion of the executive board, the freedom to exercise this constitutional right may not be limited [as published], for the authorities have the duty to guarantee public order.

From all this it is concluded that, on the one hand, the citizens have the constitutional right to demonstrate, but it also is the duty of the authorities to protect public order. Consequently, there apparently exist two situations that can come into conflict: the right to demonstrate and public order. However, on careful examination of the text of Article 63 of the constitution, one can see that this conflict of interests doesn't arise

provided that, without infringement of the right to demonstrate, this right is regulated. This is so that citizens may enjoy the guarantee granted by the constitution and, at the same time, the state may guarantee not only public order but also the other individual and social rights. This harmony can be achieved with regulations that not only are consistent with the constitution, but, on the one hand, the citizenry's right to demonstrate is safeguarded, and, on the other, the authorities can maintain public order under any circumstances.

Guatemala City, 19 November 1979.

Executive Council

Honorable Executive Council of the Congress of the Republic, honor[illegible] deputies, with the foregoing I have answered the questions put to me. Thank you.

9085
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SEAGA RESPONDS TO MANLEY CABINET SPEECH

FL251315 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Dec 79 p 19 FL

[Text] Following is the statement issued by the leader of the opposition, Mr. Edward Seaga, yesterday on the present state of affairs in the country:

The announcements of the prime minister and the minister of finance have left the country in no less bewilderment and distress. Both statements were outstanding for what they failed to say and reinforce the view that the government is without answers and should resign.

Recognising that the country is facing the greatest economic trauma in its modern history, it was expected that far-reaching questions would be answered by government in order to guide the nation as to what to expect, at least through 1980, if not beyond.

No such indications were given; no such questions addressed. Instead, the finance minister told us he was going to the IMF to beg an "ease up" in the hope that the next IMF cheque would not be withheld, and the prime minister outlined how he would re-cycle the deadwood in the Cabinet by flinging out some of the burnt-out pieces and lighting a fire under what is left!

Call

If the prime minister wishes to re-cycle his Cabinet that is his perogative. In reducing its size he is answering a call that has long been made. But it is a misunderstanding of what the country anxiously expects to present this re-cycling as the only positive proposal to deal with a national calamity.

The prime minister would have been on much stronger ground if he had spelled out the full extent of governmental re-structuring by which he now hopes to achieve the good management which has eluded his government over the past 8 years. But the impression is given that this is still being worked out, if it is being planned at all, and all that is available is a reduction in the Cabinet from 20 to 13.

Questions

Had the government not shredded its last vestige of parliamentary decency by denying the opportunity to the opposition to debate in Parliament this matter of urgent national importance, questions on where we go from here and with what fortune or misfortune, would have been posed for immediate answers.

Not having had the opportunity to confront the prime minister and his finance minister in Parliament on these questions will not release them from the national obligation which they have to answer to the public.

And so I raise on behalf of the bewildered people of a crippled country these questions of urgent national importance which all one can tell us what future this government plans for the country and conversely what future this country plans for the government.

The most important single element of economic recovery is to restore the country to a path of growth in production after seven years of negative growth, a record unmatched in the world.

Without economic growth, standards of living fall, as indeed Dr. D. K. Cuncan now readily admits to be the case over the last few years.

Growth

The government in its agreement with the IMF projected a restoration of growth as of this year. Instead, we are still journeying downhill, and projections show further declines in 1980 and 1981.

What new plans then does the government have to restore growth now that the programmes outlined in the agreement with the IMF have failed?

Only a convincing answer to this question can tell the people whether they should expect to resume improvements in the standards of living as provided by every government of Jamaica in the past, or whether their destiny is to continue the descent begun by this government in its successful mission to reduce everyone to an equality of destitution.

What new plans does the government have to restore the foreign exchange inflows to levels consistent with the country's needs now that the present plans have failed?

Apart from the desperate hope for the IMF to "ease up the next cheque" nothing has been said to provide any confidence in the business sector that raw materials will be available in 1980 to meet its needs. This is equally true of workers whose livelihood depends on the availability of raw materials and foreign exchange.

Prospect

The prospect now facing the nation is one of a critical shortage of foreign exchange throughout 1980, far exceeding the distress of 1979.

We begin 1980 with an expected shortfall of US$50 million in the foreign exchange budget after all sources are accounted for. This can be worsened by the level of price increase in oil as eventually decided by OPEC.

No one need under-estimate the terrible toll that repeated increases in the price of oil is effecting on the economy of Jamaica. But apart from entreating the public to conserve energy which is of marginal effect, little has been said by government as to whether the country is expected to continue to absorb these blows and, if so how; or to fight back, and if so how?

"Trade Union"

This leads to the question: What has happened to the "trade union of the poor" which is the justification given by the prime minister for his high profile in Third World affairs?

We were told that when poor nations were being advantaged by those better off this "trade union" would rise up with a powerful voice and thunder its disapproval.

This did not happen when we were raped of our sugar earnings by the Government of Iran after a splendid gesture by our astute government magnanimously giving up much of our certain EEC quota in sugar for the uncertain Iran deal. To date the country has lost some $60 million in export earnings in sugar which would have materialised if we had stuck with the EEC market arrangement.

And this says nothing of the infamous $13 million in commission paid to middlemen who bamboozled us!

Very shortly the impact of a Bank of Jamaica which has run out of funds will be felt throughout the economy.

Food

Food imports will be cut throughout the year precipitating severe shortages and hunger. Raw materials will be in short supply over the period dislocating thousands of workers. Machines and vehicles will be crippled by lack of spare parts.

[FL251320] What is the plan to find the extra foreign exchange, at least US$50 million, needed to restore critical imports to even 1979 levels? On this question the prime minister and the minister of finance offered an

awesome silence although the life-line of most of the population hinges on a positive solution.

Consideration of the second supplementary estimates in Parliament have been dramatically postponed. Why?

The answer is obvious and typical to its devious nature, the government is silent on the reason.

If the government concluded the second supplementary estimates now at present levels of expenditure it would be exposed to failure of a second IMF test in January. This would result from a resort to printing money by the Bank of Jamaica as the only way to financed the added expenditure.

The crucial question posed here is how does government propose to keep budget expenditure this year and next year within limits which can be afforded bearing in mind the frightening consequences of over-expenditure?

This question was not addressed with any conviction at all.

Over-spent

The present budget is really over-spent by some $200 million, when among other items the $50 million payment now due for bauxite lands acquired by government is added to the already admitted over-expenditure of $125 million.

Financing this extraordinary level of over-expenditure can only be done by printing money in the Bank of Jamaica. This would add several percentage points of the level of inflation and cause a further devaluation resulting in another unbearable round of price increases.

On the other hand if this large amount of over-expenditure is cut back, thousands of government employees will face dismissal as a means of reducing the size of the budget. These would dangerously increase the explosive force of nearly 250,000 persons now unemployed.

Apart from sly hints about the high percentage of revenue devoted to paying government staff, both the prime minister and the minister of finance avoided this crucial question which is loaded with social explosion whichever route is taken. Yet the government must take one route or the other, and the public is entitled to know now where we are going.

For the first time in several months the government held national attention which it is generally unable to capture.

Anxious

An anxious public waited for the answers to the critical questions of continuing negative growth; deteriorating standards of living; shortages and

consequential losses, hunger and unemployment; devaluation and future rounds of price increases.

Once again the government lost public attention and credibility in its timidity to grapple with crucial problems and its preference to gimmickry.

It is now at the end of its road; it can do nothing more to re-awaken the pride that was once the fountain of our ambitions or devise the solutions that inspire achievements.

It has nothing left to offer but the doleful moanings of tired men, some of whom are now gratefully retiring to pasture.

And notwithstanding the desperate search for new credibility the government should be told once and for all that Jamaicans like chickens will always mistrust the mongoose and it is irrelevant to be told whether it is 13 of them or 20.

CSO: 3020

'GLEANER' CALLS FOR CARICOM SECURITY TALKS

FL211655 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Dec 79 p 6 FL

[Unattributed editorial entitled: "Time for Action in the Caribbean"]

[Text] The revolt on Union Island in the Grenadines the day after the St. Vincent elections had returned Milton Cato to office with a massive victory, as a sobering lesson to us all in the region. The islanders who rebelled claimed that the 4,000 population had received little from the government based in St. Vincent, and one is left to wonder whether the attempts by the 30 men and women led by a Rastafarian to capture the airstrip was a quixotic demonstration of protest, or a serious attempt to do an Anguilla and secede from St. Vincent.

Fortunate'y the Cato government was able to put down the revolt, and in doing so, received help from the Barbados Government which sent policemen to St. Vincent to supplement the tiny police force there--some of whom had been dispatched to Union Island to snuff out the rebellion. Jamaica and eight other Caribbean governments quite properly condemned the rebellion, but we wonder if all would have, if the rebellion had succeeded like Mr. Bishop's.

The Grenadian Government has said it had nothing to do with the revolt. But perhaps it is fair to say that the fears of the governments of the smaller islands like Antigua, that the example of the March 13 Grenada coup would have a powerful disrupting influence are beginning to be prophetic.

What happened in Union Island points to the great need for the heads of governments in CARICOM to meet and tackle the urgent questions of security of the region, democracy in the region, human rights in the region, and a new economic order for the region. It avails us little to be seeking to right the wrongs in the wider world when here in the Caribbean we show little interest in tackling our own problems which is our greatest responsibility.

And our major leaders, except perhaps for Barbados' Tom Adams, continue to fail the Caribbean.

CSO: 3020

JAMAICA TO HOST SYMPOSIUM OF ACP SUGAR STATES IN JANUARY

FL241525 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 79 p 11 FL

[Excerpt] Jamaica is to be the venue of a symposium of African, Caribbean and Pacific sugar-producing countries to be held in mid-January next year.

The symposium is to discuss threats to their sugar market in the European Economic Community countries, and to work out strategies to deal with the situation.

This was announced by the deputy prime minister, Hon. P. J. Patterson, at the annual general meeting of the all-island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association yesterday.

Grave Threat

Mr. Patterson said the need for the symposium arose from information brought back to the island by a group of trade union leaders who visited the United Kingdom and held discussions with sugar interests there earlier this year.

This information revealed a grave threat to cane-sugar in the European market from beet-sugar competition.

Mr. Patterson reminded the cane farmers that the beet growing countries were net exporters of sugar.

Trade union leaders as well as farming and factory representatives would be represented at the symposium, he added.

Regarding Jamaica's quota situation in the world market, Mr. Patterson said that if the country failed to fill its allotment by February next the quota could be withdrawn. This could place the country in a position where even if it managed to increase production it would not have sufficient market outlets.

Already, Mr. Patterson said, Jamaica was under a suspended judgment for having failed to meet its quota-requirement this year, and he warned that all elements in the industry had an obligation to co-operate to ensure that the island's commitments were met.

CSO: 3020

COSEP PRESENTS DOCUMENT OF CONCERNS TO GRN, FSLN LEADERS

Managua LA PRENSA LITERARIA in Spanish 8 Dec 79 p 9

[Document presented to GRN and FSLN Directorate on 14 Nov 79; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] I. Introduction: COSEP and Revolutionary Unity

COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], representing different national business and professional sectors, presents to the consideration of the government junta and the National Directorate of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] this document containing the concerns and suggestions that this group feels are most important in the present situation.

We present this document as part of the dialog between our organization and the government junta and the National Directorate of the FSLN in witness to the spirit of unity and harmony that this process should encourage. It is a fact that the revolution began and ended as a pluralistic endeavor with widespread participation. The people, many union and political organizations, the armed vanguard of the FSLN and the business sectors represented in COSEP united their efforts and sacrifices to free the country from Somozism. Unity continued during the crucial time of formation of the Junta of National Reconstruction when COSEP offered it its unconditional support, reaffirming to the peoples of the world and the dictatorship the wide-ranging and unified nature of the forces that were fighting for a new Nicaragua.

It is our conviction that this unity which was indispensable for victory is indispensable today for consolidation of the victory.

The private sector is still ready to give its total contribution and sacrifice so that this process will advance and achieve the objectives for which we all fight.

In their recent mission to the United States, the COSEP delegates undertook with this spirit of cooperation to win support and financing for the Nicaraguan Government from the U.S. Government and organizations like the AID, the World Bank and the IDB.

Our aim is to cooperate, invest in our country, increase production and contribute to the consolidation of a process so beloved by the Nicaraguan people.

II. Need to Confront Crisis

A crisis that is reflected in confusion and lack of confidence which affect the entire country and will continue to get worse if not confronted quickly and realistically is now being studied. We must frankly warn that the atmosphere of optimism that prevailed right after the victory over the dictatorship is quickly being eroded by doubt, insecurity and even lack of confidence. Those feelings which we see in all strata of the Nicaraguan population are paralyzing national productive activities, delaying the repatriation of valuable human and material resources and making production organization impossible.

This document presents our opinions on the principal causes of this crisis and offers our suggestions and assistance to overcome them.

III. Causes of Crisis and Proposed Solutions

A. Lack of definition

The causes of the crisis can be summarized as the absence of a sufficiently clear and stable definition of the rules of the game and the absence of a legal framework to serve as reference, guarantee and channel for civic life.

There must be security and clear perspectives in the political and economic field in order for the productive sectors to be reactivated. These are not present today.

A. 1 Lack of definition in politics

A. 1. 1 Weakening of government program

The private sector as well as the other union and political organizations that fought for liberation see a patriotic, democratic and socially just philosophy in the program of the GRN [Government of National Reconstruction]. By including the aspirations of the Nicaraguans, it became the acceptable and appropriate framework to channel everyone's cooperation. Later a more concrete framework of

economic and social policy whose design and structure would be facilitated by the participation of all sectors in the process would be implemented.

Nevertheless, certain provisions and subsequent delays have detracted value from the program with the effect of creating a vacuum in the minimal bases of orientation and a credibility gap in all that is said or promulgated as goals or principles. Let us see concretely which measures weaken the program:

a) Power of the government junta to unilaterally change the government program and the Fundamental Statute of the Republic, granted in Chapter 1, Article 2, of that document.

Although we understand that a revolutionary period requires some flexibility since it is a stage of profound redefinition in all areas, this vast power given to the junta undermines confidence in the GRN program as a stable and basic reference point. We think that some principles which are considered basic or quintessential to the revolution should be stipulated; these could only be modified by procedures that involve the broadest representation. Thus the power of the junta would be limited to other generally operational segments.

b) Terms incompatible with ideological pluralism

We feel pluralism and the existence of a system of law, guarantor of individual rights and limiter of the state, are essential for democracy, respect for the dignity of the individual and the functioning of a private sector.

Any evolution toward state or partisan preponderance would create an imbalance in the steady social progress, depriving many sectors of their influence and converting them into passive objects of a development dictated by an almost sacrosanct agency.

A just restructuring of the distribution of power, strengthening those sectors that have traditionally lacked a voice and influence, is revolutionary progress. Nevertheless, we feel it is wrong to excessively concentrate power in a single political group or party.

We believe that an identifying characteristic of the Nicaraguan revolution will be establishing profound social transformations within a pluripartisan system without ideological discrimination, an idea expressed by Sandino--"Nicaragua must not be the patrimony of a certain group or party"--and included as a basic principle in Article 1.1 of the GRN program.

A pluralistic regime, however, cannot function if the following basic requirements are not met: separation between state and parties,

equality of opportunity among the parties, unlimited freedom of political and union association and of expression of thought and private property, all included in the GRN program, Articles 1.1, 1.4, 1.3 and 2.1.3.

Nevertheless, we see behavior inconsistent with the above principles and with the pluralistic ideal.

b. 1. One of these is the persistent confusion between the state and a political party. In spite of the fact that the government junta reserved the use of the term "Sandinist" for the FSLN and the organization or political party that it establishes, thus giving that name a partisan nature, the national army and police constituted by the GRN program, Articles 1.12 and 1.13, continue to call themselves /Sandinist/. The same situation exists with the two television channels which continue to be the exclusive monopoly of the FSLN.

We repeat the need for state institutions, different from party institutions, to be named national or /revolutionary/, but not institutions of a political organization that will soon participate in elections. It is clear that the problem could be solved if the decree which reserved the use of the term "Sandinist" for a single political group--the FSLN--were repealed, making the name a generic term representing the country and all the forces that fought against the dictatorship. If this decree making Sandinist a synonym of the FSLN continues in effect, the national organizations logically cannot use that name.

With respect to television, we feel a state channel, mouthpiece for a national television system, is necessary and compatible with provision of time or channels for the FSLN or other private groups. It should be noted that the national time would have to reflect the pluralistic nature of this revolution, providing time for all the groups that participated in this revolution, not just one.

We repeat that the revolution must be national and pluralistic and that this characteristic must be reflected at the different political levels. This would not weaken it but, on the contrary, would give it much greater solidity and legitimacy in the eyes of its detractors inside and outside the country.

b. 2. The confusion between state and party is more serious in the case of the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees], formerly Committees for Civil Defense. Those committees, overtly conceived as organs of a specific party or sector like the FSLN, have been given many state prerogatives. That irregularity, noted in the first COSEP document to the junta on 30 July, has been mentioned in many publications and sectors. The CDS are not legally constituted and are not

included in the GRN program. Their existence is merely /de facto/. Nevertheless, the governmental and partisan functions of the CDS continue; what is more serious is that they have been given even more prerogatives. This weakens the system of law, completely contradicts the existence of a state of law and makes the people handle their affairs outside the normal institutional channels that the law sanctions and protects.

The solution to this problem would be to consider the CDS national agencies for social and community development and neighborhood participation with fixed state prerogatives. In this case, the CDS should act as a support for the /revolution/ rather than the FSLN, guaranteeing their pluralistic composition in accord with the present process. This would obviously imply the elimination of the name "Sandinist" or repeal of the decree that reserves that name for FSLN organizations.

b. 3. Repeated attempts to create a /single/ workers union and other similar initiatives are difficult to reconcile with pluralism and with the spirit of the Fundamental Statute that sanctions freedom of association in Article 8 and that refers to Agreement No. 87 of the ILO which expressly rejects the formation of single union organizations.

We insist on the importance that labor organizations compete under equal circumstances, without institutional pressure. Thus we feel it is imperative to reject those clauses of the proposed union association law that seek to prevent the proliferation of unions (Article 1) and that require affiliation with regional or national unions or confederations (Articles 12, 22, 23).

b. 4. A similar inconsistency can be detected in relation to freedom of expression since the Provisional Law that regulates this makes it very easy to restrict it. It is subject to many vague and inexact conditions which, in the end, will depend on the Ministry of Culture's interpretation. Also the opportunity to practice journalism remains subject to the approval of a union which introduces the possibility of ideological control through politicalization of this union.

It is obvious that such unnecessary regulations are hard to reconcile with the letter and spirit of Article 8 of the Fundamental Statute which protects "the broadest spirit of tolerance and /unlimited/ (synonym of "without restrictions or provisions that limit it") freedom of spoken and written opinion."

As a solution to the Press Law, we suggest it be repealed or that its existence as a law of exception be applicable only while the Emergency Law is in effect. We believe that, in addition to violating

the above, it is unnecessary to maintain it in normal times and will only lead to bad interpretations inside and outside the country.

In summary, all these examples of state-party confusion and inconsistencies with pluralism are the main cause for many to ask if it is the intention of some leaders to take Nicaragua slowly toward a totalitarian dictatorship.

It is obvious that mere manifestations of good faith are not enough to assuage this anxiety; there must be concrete deeds that really show that the pluralistic democracy sanctioned by the GRN program is being established.

A. 1. 2 Lack of definition of lines of authority and responsibility

The confusion about who is in charge of what, what the lines of authority are, what hierarchy is over what, etc., creates a tremendous amount of uncertainty, duplication of efforts and contradictions in the management of many affairs that affect the daily life of the people and the productive effort. We feel it is urgent that the state draw up and implement a clear organizational chart of the present structure of authority in the country at the national and regional levels and in relation to the different state offices.

A. 2 Lack of definition of economic policy

There is uncertainty with respect to economic policies that should govern the business sector. Statements like those of Comandante Bayardo Arce indicating certain requirements that enterprises must meet to receive financing are positive but urgently need to be complemented by more concrete guidelines by the appropriate organizations contained in a short and medium-term policy. For the short term (0-2 years), it is necessary to establish procedures to be followed in each production area--imports, financing, etc. It is particularly urgent to reform and adapt labor relations so that production does not continue suffering from great amounts of time lost at the Ministry of Labor, meetings, conflicts, etc. For the medium term (3-10 years), it is necessary to draw up a plan of socioeconomic philosophy showing unambiguously what the functions, rights and duties of the private sector will be. However, it would be a mistake and inconsistent with the pluralistic nature of the revolution to design these features without the participation of the most dynamic sectors of the productive process. Therefore, we recommend the formation of joint study commissions in which all sectors--government, private enterprise, labor--have the opportunity to present their opinions and suggestions for a short and medium-term economic and social policy.

B. Exclusion of the private sector

The private sector feels excluded from government decisions. This situation hurts everyone. It reduces the former to the role of passive--and, therefore, insecure--spectator and deprives the second of the valuable contributions that can come from a sector that is very familiar with the problems of production and used to thinking in terms of efficiency. In addition, if a joint economy is to be formed, how can it be implemented or function except through the concerted effort of the sectors that are part of it?

We give priority, then, to promoting the participation of the private sector in different state institutions--ministries as well as autonomous organizations--so that sectorial policies will also be sensitive to the needs and opinions of all groups.

In line with this same concern, we suggest that the date of the inauguration of the Council of State be advanced.

The changes that have occurred in Nicaraguan political forces perhaps merit a revision of the original plans of representation but it is hard to justify the 7-month delay that has been decreed.

The Council of State was conceived as the national legislative organ where the different political, social and economic forces that contributed to overthrow the Somozist dictatorship would converge. It is very importnat, not only because it has an essential function for democracy--the legislative function--but because it gives representation within the process to the most important and interested sectors of the country. Consequently, its delay has the effect of delaying the active integration of those sectors.

C. Judicial vacuum

There is paralysis in the judicial branch which has serious consequences in many areas. One is the thousands of prisoners crowded in unsanitary jails, a legacy of the past, who have not been tried. This situation is distressing from the humanitarian point of view and from the perspective of an American revolution distinctive for its generosity.

The delay in the functioning of the judicial system also causes the repeated extension of the state of energency and the absence of the Law of Protection, situations that have their own negative effects. One is the extension of an "abnormal" system where the usual legal frameworks remain suspended and the government junta is given exceptional powers to pass measures of every type and legislate by decree, thus delaying the formation of a more stable and predictable legal

order. The other effect, due to the absence of the Law of Protection, is the inevitable absence of a legal order to enforce strict respect for individual rights and protect the people from arbitrariness and errors that the government is liable to commit. That situation also means that there are more abuses and unjust accusations which are inevitable during a revolutionary period.

In effect, many irregularities are proliferating because of the legal vacuum. There are many searches without warrants from the Attorney General's Office, those arrested are frequently held incommunicado while charges are compiled, state agencies act at times without coordination and the citizen who is the victim of an injustice frequently feels helpless and confused since the lines of request, appeal and solution of conflicts are either not defined or do not function.

We believe it is imperative, in order to reactivate the administration of justice, to establish special courts, even provisionally, to hold preliminary hearings; they could acquit but not condemn. In other words, when there is strong evidence that the prisoner is innocent, he would be released but when there is sufficient evidence or it indicates the contrary, he will remain a prisoner until a later trial by more competent courts. The same policy could be applied to the Emergency Courts. The philosophy of this measure is to facilitate acquittal and make condemnation difficult, procuring the quick release of the innocent under the precept that it is better to acquit many guilty people than to punish an innocent person. Although mistakes might be made, it would be much more humane for all and practical for the revolution. A similar type of court would be established to quickly hear appeals of expropriations or illegal searches. Also we want to point out the serious damage done when, in order to investigate or with insufficient grounds, property or an institution is seized, hurting production and ignoring the legal principle that separates natural persons from legal persons.

We urge those in charge of the restitution of the judicial branch to work more diligently and efficiently so that the system of law and protection of the individual will go into effect as soon as possible; this is the primary obligation of the state. We also urge that the Emergency Law be repealed as soon as possible and that the Law of Protection go into effect.

IV. Conclusion

What the private sector is calling for is:

a) Political and economic definition;

b) Adjustment of the features of the GRN program;

c) Participation in the process; and

d) Functioning of the judicial branch.

These points, far from being demands that detract from the revolution, are offers to strengthen it and make it more national. We repeat the urgency that we cooperate together in an open atmosphere to overcome the present crisis.

In our fervent desire to cooperate, we remain

Sincerely,

Superior Council for Private Enterprise

INDE [Nicaraguan Development Institute]
Nicaraguan Confederation of Chambers of Commerce
Agricultural Producers Association
Nicaraguan Chamber of Industries
Nicaraguan Chamber of Construction
Nicaraguan Confederation of Professional Associations

7717
CSO: 3010

BASIC QUESTIONS ON LOCAL SITUATION POSED

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 19 Nov 79 pp 8-11

[Text] Four months after the fall of Somoza and his 44 years of tyranny, the new Nicaragua, the Nicaragua of the revolution, is facing many economic and political problems. In this article, in the form of an interview with the local situation itself, we present a summary of what is happening in that Central American country.

[Question] How is Nicaragua doing?

[Answer] "Destroyed but with faith," as journalist Piedad Correa puts it in the headline of one her reports in EL MUNDO. There are persons who have lost several members of their families, who have seen their homes destroyed. There is shortage of food; housing is lacking; hospitals are inadequate; however, the majority of the people have faith that the country will move forward.

[Question] Has there been much politicization of the post-Somoza process?

[Answer] The leaders of the revolution are speaking in the language suited to this kind of liberation movement. However, most of the people are unable to tell the difference between the meanings of communism and imperialism.

[Question] In this context, is the new government maintaining multilateral relations?

[Answer] Yes. The new authorities have said as much and have implemented what they have said. They have defined the process as "a revolution on behalf of the exploited sectors of the country, workers and peasants, who want to maintain friendship with all the countries of the world."

[Question] And with the United States, how are relations?

[Answer] Some of the Sandinist leaders make frequent statements against imperialism; however, the truth of the matter is that the most prominent of them frequently talk with the U.S. dignitaries. This includes a meeting

with President Carter, after a visit to the White House by an official Nicaraguan mission, with whom an agreement was made for an economic assistance program and the training of officers of the new army.

[Question] But is there unanimity surrounding the National Reconstruction Junta, as the provisional government is called, or is there dissension?

[Answer] There is dissention and the junta is combating it in two ways: by means of a vast propaganda campaign which focuses on the advantages of the change and by means of armed action. There are armed groups of the extreme left which are operating as snipers and Somocist bands. The military sector is handling both fronts, and armed encounters occur sporadically. It is well to remember that with the victory of Sandinism there was a certain state of chaos. Now is the stage for the institutionalization of an army and for the definition of their "status" by many combatants.

[Question] What is it like in the cities of Nicaragua?

[Answer] They are like any place that has endured a long and bloody war. There are common graves for the dead. Damaged buildings. Green uniforms with berets; submachine guns, pistols and hundreds of youths who seem to want "to play war games."

[Question] But are these young people only ineterested in being pompous military personnel?

[Answer] Not at all. Thousands of them, of both sexes, are helping with the work of reconstruction. You can see them performing innumerable tasks. When you arrive at the airport, you find them as immigration officers, in the customs office and you even see them in the street doing public works jobs. In the meantime, the older youths engage in street selling as a means of earning their living. The sale of lunches at the doors of brand-new buildings such as the Banco Central are big attention getters. However, there is an important footnote: you do not see any beggars. Everybody is doing something, selling bread, lottery tickets, serving as guides for tourists and journalists who come to the country in large numbers. The abnormality is perhaps the black market in dollars. Middlemen are found on every street corner. We could sum up the situation by saying that for now the stronest part of the economy is barter.

[Question] Are there any Cuban "ideas" in the process?

[Answer] Of course. At least three of the junta are very good friends of Castro and visit him frequently. However, their relationship does not go to the point that they feel subjected to the dictates of Cuba. Nevertheless, they have copied Cuban institutions, such as the Sandinist Defense Committee, which operates on a block basis in the cities, villages, and agrarian communities and in the work centers. Among other functions, the committees are responsible for giving approvals to obtain passports, change residence, get a shop for foods controlled by the state, defend oneself against confiscations or take steps to obtain the release of a

prisoner. Just how this model of citizen participation will be kept from exceeding its functions, as happened in Cuba where it generated a chain of denunciations, even between brothers, depends upon its being kept from distorting its initial purpose. The committees operate under watchwords such as "Death to Somocia$m" and "Let us smash the counterrevolution with our fists," the latter referring to certain ultraleftists who wish to move quickly. However, affiliation with the committees is not mandatory. Within the framework of pluralism, there is a guarantee of the right to affiliate with political or community organizations, provided they are not Somoza or counterrevolutionary factions.

[Question] But what persons are in this classification?

[Answer] The Sandinist Liberation Front, which is the military arm of the government, equally defines as counterrevolutionaries: Somocists who want to go back to the old system, leftists who are sabotaging the process and the financial oligarchy which is said is "trying to get back its privileges and is attempting to finance the adventures of the Somoza guards," who are living in neighboring countries such as Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. We should clarify the fact that many members of the big families or the financial sector, especially those under 40 years of age, have accepted the rules of the game of the new government and are cooperating particularly in the economic recovery effort, as are a great number of graduates of American universities.

[Question] How many militiamen are there?

[Answer] They are calculated at some 300,000. They are keeping up their military training and have much mystique. Without a doubt they are stronger than Somoza's Guard. Minister of Interior Tomas Borge seems to be their most respected chief, even including the famous Commander Zero, who appears to be more a legend than a real power.

[Question] What is the government of Nicaragua like?

[Answer] Authority in Nicaragua is being exercised by a government junta, called the National Reconstruction Junta and made up of five members selected before the victory of the revolution. Three of them are typically from the left but with different leanings and formed the original Sandinist Front. They are Maj Daniel Ortega; university professor Moises Hassan; the intellectual, Sergio Ramirez, the latter of moderate leaning with the members of the "middle-class"; industrialist Alfonso Tobelo; and the widow of journalist Joaquin Chamorro, Violeta. The junta also exercises the legislative authority; however, when the Council of State becomes operational (it will be made up of the various factions which fought against Somoza) it will share this function. Every 30 days, the so-called state of emergency is extended, thus the functioning of the council is incurring delays.

[Question] Then what is Nicaragua's political orientation?

[Answer] Up to now, it falls within the framework of "nonalined country." "Fraternal ties" with Cuba, acceptance of U.S. aid but without conditions

and perhaps as reparations for the damage which its long-time support of Somocism inflicted on the country, an important role for Panama and Costa Rica and next for the Andean Group. In that "pluralism" personalities such as Ecuadorean President Roldos; the socialist leader of Portugal, Marion Suarez, one of the visible heads of the Socialist International have been welcomed. A short time ago, the Junta decided that only the Liberation Front could bear the name of Sandinist. Of course, Carlos Andres Perez and Omar Torrijos, who were of great help in the overthrow of Somoza, are guests of honor in Nicaragua.

[Question] And what about the prisoners of war and those who have taken asylum?

[Answer] This part of the process is not clear. The embassy of Colombia is saturated with persons who have taken asylum, without their fate being decided. Apparently, the lack of administration experience has resulted in longer than necessary delays in this sector, which brings on diplomatic criticisms and protests. There is even one ambassador who went so far as to say on this point that he did not know who was running Nicaragua.

[Question] The process, then, is less mysterious then thought?

[Answer] It depends upon what you mean by mysterious. It would be better put to say that it is a pragmatic movement in a delicate balance, in which there is opposition, extreme measures, affiliation with middle-class currents, socialist fraternity, all within the framework of a very generalized political good faith. Moreover, observers think that they are so busy with their reconstruction they do not have time to "export the revolution." The El Salvador situation is a different process with autonomous effects.

[Question] In summary, how is Nicaragua doing?

[Answer] It depends on how you look at it. There is significant progress in sectors such as health. Education has had problems for lack of classrooms and teachers. There is much unemployment because the industrialists do not dare return. Agrarian reform will have to have the more productive lands which were in the hands of the Somoza caste. And as for the economy, whether it will be mixed, whether it will be nationalized, whether a relatively autonomous private sector will be permitted, has not been clarified. And some think that it is time for a recovery plan.

8143
CSO: 3010

PERVASIVE VIOLENCE ON LOCAL SCENE DESCRIBED

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 7 Nov 79 p 6

[Article by Jean Fercsey]

[Text] Every day 2,000 persons go the the National Palace in an effort to get a passport. In front of the prison, families of hundreds of prisoners wait. Thousands are in line outside the bank to deposit "1,000-cordoba" bills at the orders of the authorities. In the square in front of the Cathedral, which was severely damaged by the 1972 earthquake, suction pump operators are working with hoses. A few feet away, miserable hovels and at their doors completely naked children. On the other side, a few hundred meters from the National Theater, huge crows flap about in a filthy field from which the odor of death emanates. "Dozens of boys and girls were executed here," our driver says, "and many of them were not buried. Somoza swore that he would revenge the death of his assassinated father.... He had no respect for human life...."

Maj Tomas Borge, the "strongman of the moment," has said repeatedly, "This is the most generous revolution; there will be no executions." However, there is no lack of atrocities due to the abuse of weapons.

In San Juan del Sur, Sandinist militiaman Francisco Mercado, alias "Barril," was recently shot by his militia comrades because of obscure jealousies. His shooting was ordered by one of the foreign leaders. The simple fact of his quite naturally having fallen in love with a female member of the militia that very night cost "Barril" his life. He was literally riddled with bullets. The arms of the Sandinist, as well as the rest of his body, were full of holes. Even his eyes were crushed. (Note: Up to now we know of only one other similar case: terrorists of the "Japanese Red Army" executed a guerrilla who was in love because love was considered "a weakness.")

Another case: Maritza Chavez, the widow of Hooker, and close family members denounced the assassination of Lester Rene Hooker, former Guard lieutenant, who had taken asylum in Guatamala. However, Hooker wanted to return. He wrote to Major Borge and offered his services as a military instructor in the Sandinist Army. He was prepared to be investigated and judged. He

entered the country on 14 August with all his documents drawn up. On 21 August they took him to a military camp. The two majors who were with him went to headquarters and upon their return could not find Hooker or their automobile. Two hours later, Hooker was reported dead at the Military Hospital with a bullet through his jugular vein. It is enough to say that Lieutenant Hooker was the first officer to return of his own free will and that many friends in Honduras and Guatamala, including some in embassies, had placed their hopes in the fate of Hooker.

One more case: Francisca Gonzalez de Rodriguez said, "I ask Major Borge for justice in my son's case." The woman said that her Sandinist son who was an armored car driver was killed on 19 August in the presence of his wife and his 3-year-old son. The woman feels that her son was assassinated by "Major Macondo," who reportedly was being detained in the Bunker. Moreover, another son of Mrs Rodriguez died in a guerrilla camp under circumstances which are not fully clear.

We must point out that these bloody events are not rumors but were published by LA PRENSA of Managua, having been written by correspondence of that independent newspaper. One of the articles mentioned was signed by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, son of the martyred journalist and Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, a member of the Government Junta.

There were guerrillas and terrorists of various nationalities among the Sandinists, and many "nicos" were trained in camps of Cuba and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization). At the end of August, a PLO delegation arrived in Managua; one of the members of this delegation was a Catholic priest, "Comrade Father Ayad, Arafat's deputy for Latin American affairs." "Father Ayad" is a 60-year-old man, short, half bald with a little gray hair. He announced that he would say "a mass for the PLO fallen." He was warmly received by Moises Hassan Morales, a member of the Junta and father of Miguel d'Escoto, minister of foreign affairs. In several interviews, the priest declared his support for the guerrillas, although Pope Paul II had made it quite clear that there is no such thing as a "Catholic guerrilla."

What is the position of the church in Nicaragua? The archbishop of Managua, Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, who had condemned Somoza, is now saying that "there should be a dialog between the church and state." Bishops have told members of the Government Junta, "The Church has not been nor will it be active in partisan politics but will continue to denounce as it has up to now every sin which results in hatred, violence or excessive desire for power." Two days later, "unidentified individuals" entered the Curia, destroyed documents and stole money. Later, someone called the archbishop and told him, "Be careful, Monsignor, because 'the White Hand' is following you."

The Cathedral is damaged so badly that it will take about $2 million to reconstruct it. Only the church of Santo Domingo, patron saint of the city, has been reconstructed. Fortunately, the war did not reach this district and the stained glass windows are intact. Behind the altar, Christ on the cross says to the people: "I am with you every day." Mass is attended by few persons--and no guerrilla is in the church.

EDITORIAL URGES HERRERA TO REMEDY PEREZ ERRORS

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 6 Dec 79 p 1

[Editorial by Amadis: "?"]

[Text] Many Venezuelans are of the opinion that the Carlos Andres Perez [CAP] government is the worst of the democratic governments the country has had up to now.

They base this opinion on the fact that the CAP government had the most absolute power in its hands and had an unprecedented parliamentary majority and also control of the great majorities of the legislatures and municipal councils of the country, unlike other democratic governments which did not hold such broad powers.

The CAP government also had the nation's biggest budgets in it hands; what is more, it had taken over the country with expenditures adjusted to a budget of approximately 15 billion bolivares and turned it over with expenditures in excess of 50 billion bolivares.

That is, it had opportunities never before available to any other government in the country's history. By drawing up a balance sheet of those opportunities of the CAP government and the results obtained one reaches the conclusion which justifies the thinking of those many Venezuelans.

The squandering of public funds reached unprecedented levels. The "Sierra Nevada" is only one example of such wastefulness: the purchase of a refrigerator ship without an in-depth study to determine whether or not the price was proper. There was money available with which to build it, and it seemed to the president that someone's suggestion this was the way to solve the lack of refigerator ships was on the mark. In that impulsive way, many other projects were completed, without fraudulent intent, but without an awareness of the lack of justification for the expenditure.

Another criticism of the CAP government is that it was the one which began to create a tense situation between private enterprise and the government. It did this with an avalanche of ill-considered decrees which caused a breakdown in the mortgage and commercial banking sector,

paralization or atrophy of the construction industry which is the greatest source of employment in the country as well as a slowdown in all private economy sectors, for lack of confidence resulting from repeated decrees.

We offered many criticisms in this very column on those occasions.

One year after the end of the CAP government, the country is still experiencing what in drinking terms is called a day-after hangover.

Now then, the present government has to make a more effective effort in a hurry to rectify those decrees which caused the slowdown in the private economy. If this is not done, what has been called slowdown could soon be transformed into a real recession, with the new government a collaborator in that serious situation.

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'HONEYMOON' OVER FOR HERRERA ADMINISTRATION

Caracas BOHEMIA in Spanish 10-16 Dec 79 pp 6-9

[Political Report No 478 from BOHEMIA: "No One Has Seen the Grass Grow"]

[Text] A year ago the people elected an opposition candidate to the presidency. In this way the saying that the government loses elections became a cliche; and on this occasion, with Luis Herrera Campins [LHC], the people again greatly deluded themselves over the possibility of a real change, the solution of many problems and the promise often made but never fulfilled.

A scant 12 months have been enough--9 of actual government--to bury almost all expectations. Government inaction, the incoherence of an economic policy which is leading no one knows where, the inability of a great part of the executive structure at the level of ministers and governors and an exaggerated predilection for slogans have made it possible for the government to deteriorate with much greater rapidity than all of the governments which preceded it.

In the stage of transition--December to March--President Herrera cooked his cabinet over a slow fire which finally was either burned or left raw, with one of the rare exceptions, Montes de Oca, an outstanding man. During that period, no concrete plan was announced to the country; and all the measures remained "in pectore" [decided but not acted upon]. Everyone believed that as soon as the new government took over bold measures would immediately be taken, particularly since certain final disasters of the previous administration made a rapid action plan mandatory.

That did not happen. It is true that the president cited several polemic points in his policy of attacks against his principal adversary, Democratic Action [AD]. The initial denunciation that he had received a mortgaged Venezuela, the alleged cases of corruption exposed and the amount of the public debt revealed did damage to the party which had just taken on the principal responsibilities of government.

Corruption, one of LHC's election banners, is as prevalent as it was in the previous government; only the cast of characters benefiting therefrom has changed. The milk scandal, corruption in the CORPOMERCADEO [expansion unknown], CANTV [National Telephone Company of Venezuela], INCRET [Workers Training and Recreation Institute] and in the Development sector are only examples.

The December victory, the expectations aroused by the new administration, added to the discord in the AD, plus the trauma of defeat, produced a resounding COPEI victory in the municipal elections.

It was then hoped that, with the June elections over and with the president strengthened by the success his party had just had in these elections, the new measures and solutions would not be long in forthcoming and that the program promised in the election campaign would finally begin to be carried out.

Vain illusions. COPEI [Social Christian Party] devoted itself to an internal blood and thunder fight and forgot that it was the government party even while the votes of the municipal elections were being counted. And the government which reiterated that its sole commitment was to the poor did nothing more than authorize the lifting of price controls on the principal items of popular consumption which has made the cost of living a nightmare for the people.

In the meantime, not only did the problems not find solutions, or even palliatives, but became aggravated during these 9 months. Urban transportation, telephone service, water, urban clean up and food shortages lashed the Venezuelans in their daily lives, without their having the consolation that some of these services would improve during what remains of the government's term.

At the same time, the government has looked for a fight with amost all of the country's sectors, not only in the political camp, in which it seems natural and logical for there to be a permanent dispute with the opposition, although not in the tone and with the stridency being orchestrated from Miraflores.

The government is fighting with employers and workers. The former complain about a lack of economic guidelines, the lack of liquidity which leads many companies to fail, the inadequacy of credits for industry, particularly for medium-sized and small industries and for agriculture.

Workers are protesting against high prices and are demanding wage increases which are attained despite the government. Government workers have not even succeeded in having the contracts reached a year ago signed; and the government is at the same time being confronted by engineers working for the state, professors and teachers who engage in strikes and even nurses, whose union up to now had always been peaceful and conformist.

Some ministers are assailing FEDECAMARAS [Association of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers].

They are having problems with the communications media now because of color television, as the result of a decree which, like many others, satisfies no one and leaves everyone in disagreement. If that were not enough and existing problems did not suffice, a journalist, Olmedo Lugo, was sent to jail for having denounced incidents of alleged corruption in a ministerial office.

And to top that, the president is losing control of his own party with the winning of internal elections by the sector loyal to President Caldera who--it is a secret to no one--has always been opposed to Luis Herrera. Thus, criticisms are coming not only from the opposition parties but also from the government's own party which is reminding the president through the words of Rafael Caldera not to forget his promise to the poor and not to fall into the temptation of the acts of corruption for which the previous administration was reproached.

The balance sheet could not be more deplorable. Government and COPEI spokesmen cannot cite a single useful project to give them encouragement; and the president must once again resort to slogans to define his administration, namely "it is completely rather than casually involved."

He is taking charge of international and oil policies to save the country's honor. And in these sectors, we must admit that a good job has been done and that in the respective offices there are two--Zambrano and Calderon--of the few effective ministers of a cabinet whose major credit is Premier Montes de Oca, who is truly talented. However, we should not forget that in the international and oil sectors policies have been consistent with those followed by the country for a long time and by all the democratic governments, each of which was able to do so with a clear progressive orientation that no one in the opposition, except the most inveterate, have dared to criticize.

Spokesmen for the opposition have been able to make great capital out of their evaluation of this first year after the presidential election. Gonzalo Barrios, Hernandez Grisanti and Humberto Celli have spoken for the AD. Petkoff did so for the MAS [Movement for Socialism]. Paz Galarraga for the MEP [People's Electoral Movement] and Radames Larrazabal for the PCV [Communist Party of Venezuela]. The MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] has not said anything, absorded as it is by internal problems. Even the URD [Democratic Republican Union], an ally in the elections, has made criticisms through the remarks of Tenorio Sifontes.

"The expectations raised by President Herrera during his election campaign," Celli said, "are still remembered and have given rise to great national frustration which is dangerous because of the despair it could spread in the country and which might result in the people's losing faith in the election processes."

For the communists, the balance sheet of these 9 months is not very gratifying: inflation, shortages, unemployment, speculation and infinite sloganeering. All of which constitute a plague that is lashing the poor who allegedly are close to the president's heart.

The MAS, through Pompeyo Marquez and Teodoro Petkoff, has openly expressed its disgust with the government's inaction. Those of the MAS stress the fact that nothing was done in this period; a plan for relief in the immediate future has not even been set down. What is more, they note that this government is being corroded by the same vices for which the previous government was criticized, the best example of which is the financial and fiscal policy, with a deficit budget, loaded with current expenditures and a debt policy that is unending.

Even independents who reached the point of sympathizing with the COPEI cause, such as Manuel Alfredo Rodriguez, are joining the ranks of national discouragement. "The government is not getting started," Rodriguez said. Then he added, "The cost of living is going up, insecurity is increasing; the number of persons without identification papers is growing; and, what is most serious, the system's structures are deteriorating at an increasing pace."

The URD, which supported Luis Herrera, is giving him a certain amount of support in parliament and has a number of men in government, makes so bold as to say, through Deputy Tenorio Sifontes, that national life in this first year of government has been spent in the midst of difficulties, question marks and serious economic problems which still have not found a satisfactory solution.

The president of the Chamber of Deputies has been very forthright. "The government of President Herrera," Canache Mata said, "deserves the Nobel Prize for ineffectiveness. The rate of inflation has reached 20 percent and unemployment 7 percent. The policy of economic contraction implemented by the present government, for lack of monetary liquidity, has caused the failure of a large number of small and medium-sized companies, which has generated a greater concentration of economic power in the hands of a few."

In short, the voices of the sectors of the opposition and of the union organizations are being lifted as one in harsh criticism of presidential management, while from the COPEI, through Osvaldo Alvarez Paz, we have heard a halfhearted effort to defend the work of the government.

This has also been done by one of its ministers, Luis Ugueto, who justifies himself by explaining that the problems from which we are now suffering were to be expected but that over the short term, specifically in 1980, we will begin to feel the beneficial effects of the economic measures taken, all of which have been discussed at length at the political and experts levels.

Price decontrol, economic contraction and the lowering of tariffs, with the consequences thereof, some of which are serious, such as the increase in unemployment and the failure of companies, could be understood within the framework of a plan designed to combat inefficiency and unproductiveness provided at the same time other measures are taken to counteract the negative effects which such decisions produce in a fatal way.

The truth of this is evident: not only are we feeling and suffering from the most unfavorable effects of such measures but there is no accompanying compensatory production of satisfaction or conformity at the popular level.

With malice aforethought, we have been severe in our analysis. An independent spokesman, with no commitments other than those made to the public, is obliged to make his criticisms not with destructive intent but with an earnest desire that a change in direction and a prompt turning of the rudder will be produced.

All of the country's responsible spokesmen demand that this be done. The selfsame government party has requested this. The COPEI rank and file voted for those not identified with the official team and elected Pedro Pablo Agilar who benefited from the discontent of the activists with the management of the government. The top COPEI leader, Rafael Caldera, also asked that the program promised in the last elections be implemented.

The country needs and requires this in order to get out of the difficult situation it is now experiencing. And we have sufficient resources for this purpose, particularly at a time when oil is still an important source of revenues but one which will not last us forever. The democratic system needs this to survive, as it is not enough to live free if this be not accompanied by the solution to the social problems from which the country is suffering and which are affecting the great majority of the populace.

This is also needed to silence rumors which for some time had not been heard but which have begun to surface chock-full of dire threats to democracy. The president himself and his Minister of Defense had good reason to deny these rumors. And the culture medium for such rumors is the scepticism and malaise generated by the disillusionments over failure to live up to the promises which were made at the time of the election euphoria.

Let the government remember the promises it made barely a year ago, for which the people voted on 3 December 1978, and try to make good on its word. That is the only thing being demanded. Nothing more, nothing less. For up to now, as a fellow newsman so aptly put it, the line totals are: "No hits, no runs, no errors."

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BRIEFS

1980 HEAVY CRUDE SOLD--As a result of the Iran crisis, Venezuela has sold its entire 1980 production of heavy crude on the international markets, according to an announcement yesterday by Dr Jose Pratts, manager of refining planning and coordination for PETROVEN [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc]. Doctor Pratts stated that, owing to the favorable effect of the Iran crisis on the marketing of our oil, our entire production of heavy crudes for the coming year was sold before 1 December 1979. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 2 Dec 79 p 1] 9238

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES--Average daily oil production reached 2,349,462 barrels a day as of the end of November, representing an increase of 200,422 barrels a day over the 2,149,040 barrels daily average for the same period in 1978. This brings the total crude recovered from the venezuelan subsurface to 784,720,308 barrels during the 11 months of this year just completed, to which may be added the estimated minimum of 72,833,322 barrels daily for the month of December, for a grand total of 857,553,630 barrels of crude to be produced by this country this year. The information on average production was released by the Ministry of Energy and Mines in its WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, which provides the following daily oil production statistics: 1979 average as of 28 November 1979 2,349,462 bbls/day; 1978 average over the same period 2,149,040 bbls/day; increase 200,422 bbls/day; percentage increase 9.33 percent; 1978 average over entire year 2,165,530 bbls/day. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 2 Dec 79 p 1-30] 9238

NEW GAS RECOVERY SYSTEM--MARAVEN has completed the installation of a new centralized pressure relief system at the Cardon refinery, at a cost of 60 million bolivars, to recover 1,800 tons of gas per month, it was announced yesterday by this subsidiary of PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum , Inc]. The pressure relief system commonly known as a "flare pit" has been enhanced by the incorporation of equipment designed to recover gases, which will result in a significant energy savings for the country, in that 60 tons a day of gas will be recovered, which can be used as fuel in the Cardon refinery's gas system. According to the information released by MARAVEN, the new equipment places that refinery at the top of the scale of modern techniques and standards throughout the world as regards the safety of

equipment and personnel in this industrial complex, while guaranteeing a substantial reduction in environmental pollution. The new pressure relief system was installed by technicians of the company's Refining Division to ensure an adequate supply of water for handling the worst emergency that could result from a total failure of the normal cooling-water or electrical power systems. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 27 Nov 79 p D-7] 9238

CONTINENTAL SHELF SEISMIC STUDY--Puerto La Cruz, 30 November (Special, Evaristo Marin)--A French ship, contracted by the INTEVEP [Venezuelan Institute of Petroleum Technology] Research and Development Center, will carry out geophysical explorations on the Venezuelan continental shelf over a period estimated at 5-7 months, to study the ocean bottom formations and determine accurately the areas that can be used to install oil well drilling equipment within appropriate safety margins. Eleazar Gomez Fermin, chief of offshore operations for INTEVEP, and Doctor Luis Herrera Bolivar, a researcher with the same institute, said that the seismic survey being carried out is solely for engineering purposes and not an exploration for hydrocarbons, which is normally carried by another type of ship. The French ship arrived in Puerto La Paz today and refueled, to continue its course northward of Paria to the northern tip of Venezuela, where it will initiate its underwater work. Contracted through the French National Center for Exploration of the Oceans, with headquarters in Paris, its work will extend over the entire Venezuela continental shelf north of Paria, state of Falcon. Herrera Bolivar said that the seismic data to be processed will be delivered to the PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc] and its operating subsidiaries, and will be of considerable importance in the search for oil reserves in the northern coastal areas of Venezuela. Basically, this work is a prerequisite to oil exploration operations proper. It has as its object the reduction to a minimum of the risks to personnel, in that the study will provide advance information on the load-bearing characteristics of the ocean-bottom zones in which equipment involved in the search for hydrocarbons will be expected to operate in the immediate future. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 1 Dec 79 p D-14] 9238

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